WHIZZBANGER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

AUGUST 95
ISSUE ONE

FLASHPOINT

The following facts contain horrible realities that may turn your stomach. Please do not read any further if you are easily offended!

ENOUGH RELIGION

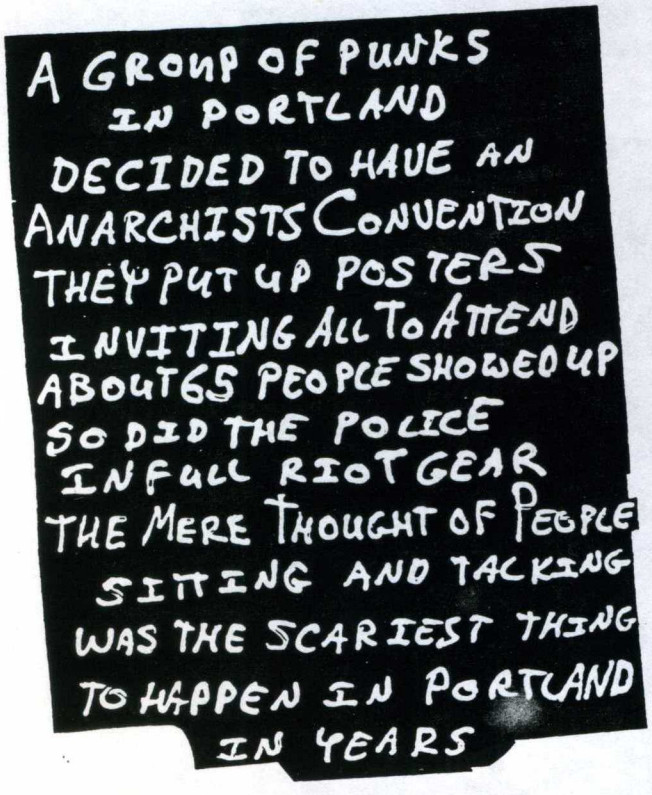
TO MAKE US HATE

NOT ENOUGH

TO MAKE US LOVE

THREE DOLLARS

The rampage of about 65 youths in July 1993 near the former X-Ray Cafe on Burnside has frequently been referred to as an "Anarchist Riot". But considering that the police arrested as many as 30 youths and squashed the event with ease, it should be called an anarchist flop.



whatever the origin,
is an *ideology of antisociality*, and ha
it's effect. It is a bias against socializ
ing, against just sitting around talkin
as opposed to going out and doin
things like seeing movies and roc
bands

traveling and talking
foreigners is replaced by looking
tourist attractions, actual conversatic
is replaced by people trying to ente
tain as if they were acting in sitcom
conversations between strangers
bars is replaced by people shoutir
over the loud music, or simply starir
up at the band and listening.

This whole superstructure
replacement and *mesmerization* the
forms a technique of antisociality, w
the net result that it is hard to talk
people.

This is why I started my own ZINE

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INTRO BY SHANNON

I received a strict Christian upbringing. "Christian guilt" was a very good weapon that worked very well on me. I sat there in church and listened to them tell me how Christ had died for me and I will never be able to live up to that and I should feel ashamed. Then of course they used that "masturbation is self abuse" guilt trip too (though it is never mentioned in the Bible). Once a church gets control of your sexuality it becomes easier for them to control your mind.

Living in a "Christian" county, all sex education is banned. Which obviously caused me to be even more curious. Of course education is also banned in public school, so pornography is the only place to get "information." Pornography is a very skewed view of sex, it did not help much.

Both my parents were very emotionally abusive, and I was physically beaten and strangled by my good Christian father, and sodomized with inanimate objects and molested by my good Christian mother. Meanwhile I am receiving this massive guilt trip from the church. Every thing really was all my fault, and here are the scriptures to prove it.

My body was dad's property to beat, mom's property to fuck, God's property to punnish, but never mine to possess. I did not know what gender I was. By the time I was 19 I was diagnosed as schizophrenic.

I had tried so hard to "be good," and pray my brains out, and follow sheep-like whom ever thought they had the right of authority over me.

I had been taught well. Everything was my fault. Even schizophrenia. My mom said "If you don't cut that out we will have you put away. You should feel ashamed of putting us through this." And I did.

After a few years of the medical profession's drug pushing I became a total drooling zombie. Eventually out of sheer frustration my parents started doing research and learned about chemical imbalances and vitamin deficiencies. They put me on massive doses of vitamins and minerals and soon I was cured.

It was like a suit of armor was taken off of me. Suddenly I could see/hear/smell/taste. I could actually feel my own orgasms now. And I was not going to feel guilty about them either. Eating, sleeping, and fucking are normal bodily functions. Depriving yourself of any of these things is self abuse.

When my health became more normal I became angry over the loss of the several years I had spent in a drug induced stupor. I was emotionally about 3 years behind schedule. I prayed.

This is when I discovered my gift for music. There was this constant music in my head I had never heard before. I literally wrote music in my sleep. I bought instruments and became obsessed with my new gift. It was the ultimate example of exaggerated "math rock." Extremely intricate. Of course my parents were very suppressive of it. They made up idiotic rules and regulations to stop me.

I finally recognized for the first time that all the guilt trips they had laid on me all these years were not due to the "fact" that I was "worthless liability," but due to the fact that they were evil manipulative creeps! The Bible was their weapon they had used to spiritually beat me into oblivion. And now that I had finally developed a self image, they were threatened by it. They had to destroy anything that would cause them to lose control of their little robot. And the church was there to help them with it's "Rock-n-roll is the Devils music" bullshit. And the guilt trip was still working on me. I really tried to see their side.

Eventually I realized it was all power for the sake of power. Control for the sake of control. They had their slaves, and they liked keeping it that way. But I did not need their control. I had already controlled myself to the point of cracking up.

Then I looked at all the other sheep in the congregation. I saw all the hypocrites and game players. I saw all the pomposity and arrogants based on opinions that were not even in the Bible. The "elders" in the congregation had their heads so far up their asses they could not see their own kids were trash. But of course I was considered an evil person because I wrote music.

This is not about religion. This is about POWER and CONTROL. How self righteous you people are over things that are irrelevant. How dare you call me evil when I am the only true Christian in this congregation?

I needed God in my life. But I did not need this "God Gestapo" driving a wedge between me and God, forcing me out of the church.

I did not hate God. I hated religion. I hated it so much I could not pray any more. My spiritual relationship with God faded. Now I think of all churchgoers as "sheep."

Shannon.

DIVINE MYSTERY

by Shannon

Satisfied in drinking
The broth of foul things
I shall give a blessing
With uncanny words

I hide my flesh and fluids
And stand my sacred ground
Pompous in my robes
I am superior to you

Shall all my acts of righteousness
Fade away like leaves?
You should not question divine mystery
Do as I say/Not as I do

I am planning ways to ill treat you
Because I have the right
And you will believe the words I say
Because I told you to

An overwhelming avalanche
Of mass stupidity
Door mats for my usage
Do as I say/Not as I do

Are all my acts of righteousness
Disposable garments for menstruation?
Will I smother from the weight
Of their uselessness?

Will the power of my error
Cause me to melt?
You should not question divine mystery
Do as I say/Not as I do

They now have machines, like ATM's, where Christians can type in their sins and the machine will print out what their penance is (in dollar amounts). The Christian then inserts a credit card and charges forgiveness.

PAY UP, OR GO TO HELL !

It seemed so predictable that these high-octane spiritual circuses, where viewers charged salvation on their Visa cards, would harbor charlatans. At the time of Jim Bakker's fall, 35 television stations were owned by religious organizations.

The humiliation of some of the biggest stars came quickly: Oral Roberts went on the air with his "contribute or else I will die" campaign, insisting God would strike him dead unless the coffers were filled to the brim. The cynical prayed for a thunderbolt, but none ever came.

Then Jimmy Swaggart confessed to having cavorted with prostitutes, and took a temporary leave of absence from his ministy until God ordered him back to work.

In retrospect, the media was too quick to dismiss the religious right after the Bakker scandal. The analysis assumed that the unmasking of the televangelists, the weak presidential campaign bid of 700 club star Pat Robertson, the losing battles in Congress over school prayer and abortion, and the dissipation of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, spelled the defeat of the religious conservatism in America. But it is hard to write off. For example: 14.6 million Southern Baptists, or the viewers in 55 million homes receiving Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. And behind every tear soaked, jail bound precher there is another fearless leader waiting to ride herd over the lost sheep (accent on "sheep").

INTRO BY SARAH

Sex, religion, and the injustices of life.

However diverse sex and religion may seem, in many ways they are closely related.

I am sexually inhibited. This causes me great distress, as I imagine sex could be one of the best things in life. I think it should be viewed as sacred. But to me it is so attached to guilt, fear, and anxiety, that I imagine I might have to go forever without it.

As a young kid I think I was normal. I remember feeling the same as other kids my age. I kissed the neighbor boy, we explored each other, I had little kid crushes. But every one else grew up, gained experience, and changed. I did not.

I think along the way I was hurt incredibly by my so-called "only true religion." I could not recognize it at the time because I knew no better.

As I developed and gained beauty I attracted boys. I was made to feel I was wrong in doing this. If a boy was attracted to me it was entirely my "fault." I was Jezebel. I was a whore out to polute the minds of every poor deprived (sexually and otherwise) young boy. And if anything happens it is of course my fault for being pretty.

Well FUCK ME for being pretty! I will just wear turtle necks and jumpers so as not to create a distraction!

I do not recal any specific incident that could have caused me such distress. I think it was more of a subtle, yet continual, brain washing. It ruined me. It got so if some one gave me any compliment, I would feel dirty and bad. I became very androgynous. I was a tomboy anyway, but this was extreme. When I was 8 I decided that if it was bad to be a girl then I wanted to be a boy. I had a boy's haircut, boy's clothes, boy friends; I did boy things, I played with boys. For all practical purposes I was a boy.

When I was 12, all the other girls in my class had periods, shaved their legs, curled their hair, wore make up, and went out with boys. I tried to be more of a girl, but I was very bad at it. It seemed impossible for me to become like them.

When I was 14 I was at a religious convention. It was winter and I was freezing in my girl clothes. A friend of mine (a boy, oh no!) offered me his coat. He made a point of asking if I would feel uncomfortable in accepting the coat, considering he was a boy. I recognized he was not being flirtatious, merely kind. I said "No, I understand," and I took the coat. However, some church elders saw this exchange and made it known to my dad my un-Christian conduct. The next day I was punished and forced to apologize for my "slut-like" behavior.

Is it just me? or is that total bullshit!?

I spent my developmental years in constant anxiety because some religious freaks made me feel terrible about being a girl; about existing at all!

During that time I was struggling so hard to keep my heart good and spiritual. But they just could not leave me alone. Because I felt terrible, I looked terrible. And because I looked terrible, I was told I was terrible. I was a "Rotten, sinful child with a bad attitude. And you know how God views sinners."

Please God, see me for who I am in my heart, and not for how terrible I look and feel.

Added to this spiritual abuse was obvious depression, physical beatings, the hell that is high school, and plain old "tennageritis." I flew full force into anorexia. I was anorexic because I was literally afraid to grow up. If I was already being this suppressed at 14, I could just imagine what was in store for me.

The church had taught me to deny my physical self. I felt I was doing the right thing by starving myself to lose female figure. But it became so extreme, it was more of a death wish; a means of self destruction.

Now I am 18. I ran away from my church and parents. I am healing, but it makes everything I was so afraid of so much more difficult to go through. I have lost those years. I am behind everyone else. I am re-being a child, struggling with an adolescents I was never allowed to have, and trying to be an adult and support myself, all at the same time.

One thing I have learned from it all is there is a huge difference between religion and spirituality. It is in fact possible to be spiritual and loved by God, without being religious.

Sarah.

Roman Hocus Pocus

A pretty maid, a Protestant, was to a Catholic wed;
To love all Bible truths and tales, quite early she'd been bred.
It sorely grieved her husband's heart that she would not comply
And join the Mother Church of Rome and heretics deny.

So day by day he flattered her, but still she saw no good
Would ever come from bowing down to idols made of wood;
The mass, the host, the miracles, were made but to deceive;
And transubstantiation, too, she'd never dare believe.

He went to see his clergyman and told him his sad tale
"My wife's an unbeliever, sir, you can perhaps, prevail;
For all your Romish miracles my wife has strong aversion,
To really work a miracle may lead to her conversion."

The priest went with the gentleman - he thought to gain a prize.
He said, "I will convert her, sir, and open both her eyes."
So when they came into the house, the husband loudly cried,
"The priest has come to dine with us!" "He's welcome," she replied

And when, at last, the meal was o'er, the priest at once began
To teach his hostess all about the sinful state of man;
The greatness of our Savior's love, which Christians can't deny
To give Himself a sacrifice and for our sins to die.

"I will return tomorrow, lass, prepare some bread and wine;
The sacramental miracle will stop your soul's decline."
"I'll bake the bread," the lady said. "You may," he did reply,
"And when you've seen this miracle, convinced you'll be, say I."

The priest did come accordingly, the bread and wine did bless.
The lady asked, "Sir, is it changed?" The priest answered, "Yes,
It's changed from common bread and wine to truly flesh and blood
Begorra, lass, this power of mine has changed it into God!"

So having blessed the bread and wine, to eat they did prepare;
The lady said unto the priest, "I warn you to take care,
For half an ounce of arsenic was mixed right in the batter,
But since you have its nature changed, it cannot really matter."

The priest was struck real dumb - he looked as pale as death.
The bread and wine fell from his hands and he did gasp for brea
"Bring me my horse!" the priest cried, "This is a cursed home!"
The lady replied, "Begone; tis you who shares the curse of Rome."

The husband, too, he sat surprised, and not a word did say.
At length he spoke, "My dear," said he, "The priest has run away
To gulp such mummery and tripe, I'm not, for sure, quite able;
I'll go with you and will renounce this Roman Catholic Fable."

Author Unknown

We first met CHERYL a couple of years ago at Peace Café. She loves the outdoors, passionately loves Greek salad, and has been known to play the flute every once in a while.

SEM: Why don't you tell us a bit about growing up?
CHERYL: I grew up in a very conservative home and family, Mennonite. The church was basically the center of life, like all friendships and social life. Everything else was secondary compared to church. And we also knew that what the church taught, that's what mom and dad would teach. There was always an authoritative voice, and i never learned to think for myself until I was 21. It was all rules and regulations, and I thought that if i just followed them, then maybe I would do things right. I went to a Christian school for awhile and when I went back to public school, that was in high school. Those were really formative years for me, in the Christian private school.
SEM: Was it positive or negative?
CHERYL: Negative! Looking back with the maturity that I have now. At the time i didn't realize that. Really enforcing. We all had uniforms and that kind of thing. Everything i learned was really really ingrained. Of course, coming back to a public school was a real shock. Everything was really evil, and really wrong. And I was in a really awkward stage, an awkward age, and I got really fucked up.
SEM: Was it culture shock?
CHERYL: Yeah. We actually got kicked out of the private school. There was all sorts of stuff that was happening with my parents and we didn't know. A lot of families got asked to leave. They [the school] didn't want the parents to be involved in the school. They were, "We know how to teach your kids." Very controlling.
SEM: So your parents were just trying to have a hand in your education?
CHERYL: Yeah, it was something I wanted too. I mean, how could you go wrong to go to a Christian school? What better place could you be? So, involved with all that, those were my friends, and the church was the center of life. All of those friendships were destroyed, and we left the church as well. So I was really alone, and that's when I developed an eating disorder, trying to be perfect. I was anorexic for 6 years, and then began bingeing. I notice now the absence of it, I don't struggle with it anymore. It's just grace, total healing. But it started when here I am in public school again.
SEM: You kind of internalized the rules?
CHERYL: Big time. I took them farther than they should have ever been taken. And a big part of that, of course, is sexuality. Being in a private school, you know what i mean, total segregation, and you're all in uniform, and it's a big taboo for anything to happen. And it was really wrong for me to have a body, to have a sexual body. And i still know my parents today that if anything ever happened to me, like I get raped or something, it would be my fault.

SEM: Really?!
CHERYL: Yeah. It would be how I dressed or how I looked. Like I put that thought in the man's mind.

SEM: Was that, in school or by your parents, actually directly taught? Or was it more you inferring it?
CHERYL: No, i already had that from my home upbringing. You were always careful, like what you wore was really important, and then in private school we had classes for all the girls on how to be womanly. It was really big time. And when I left private school, I didn't have any clothes, because we wore a uniform, so I had to wear my mother's clothes. So you can imagine what I was wearing. It took me about 3 years before i could wear shorts, and only when i moved to Winnipeg, which was years later, could I wear tank tops, and I had to wear a couple at a time because I felt so naked and so self-conscious. And then, I can't say these things were to blame. I mean, my personality is crucial. Stick another kid in my life, they could have grown up so different. So it definitely had to do with me. The whole eating disorder had a lot to do with my Christianity, and me just trying to do my best to be perfect. That's just how perverted the whole thing got. When I finally started emerging from that whole part of my life, it took 8 years of my life. And i got really sick. I've been hospitalized 14 months of my life, in psych wards and that, so I know a very different world as well.
SEM: Where was your relationship with God then? Did you have a relationship?
CHERYL: That's when it started disintegrating. At the end part of the illness, I went to bible school for a bit, and then i just totally drew away. The only thing i knew for sure was that the Bible was real. Just because i based my whole life on Christianity and on being spiritual and on striving for perfection, and my whole life had become a living hell...it was just unbelievable, just horrible. And so I just knew this can't be it. If this is what Jesus Christ came for, I don't want it, this is wrong. This just isn't what it's about, and i knew that. But because it had been such an unhealthy thing for me, I had to totally separate from it. And I just kept drawing away more and more. I went to church, and then i couldn't go to church that was organized anymore, so i went to a house church. And then i couldn't even go to a house church...But there was still a part of me that was spiritual.

SEM: So you dropped out for a while?
CHERYL: For the most part. And for years, the only prayer I had was "Jesus, keep me your child, keep me safe." That's all I could pray. I knew I was his child, and yet there was nothing in my life to say that i was. So, what i did basically, was to go to the opposite end. I mean, I didn't go nearly as deep as I could. There was a lot of stuff that i didn't experiment with. But, it's like, this didn't work, so let's see the other side of the coin, all of the stuff that's wrong, and then work my way to a medium.

SEM: How long ago was that?
CHERYL: When I was around 21. That was 6 years of my life. Because for me, everything happened in stages. Because of the eating disorder, I had to deal with the fact that I had a physical body, and it was OK to be a physical human being. And then I had to deal with emotions, and going through therapy and dealing with that. And then I found also that I had to deal with the fact that I was sexual, and then finally after all those things had been dealt with, I had to deal with the fact that I was also spiritual. I think that's different. A lot of people are able to pull it all together. For me, I was really terrified to touch the part of me that was spiritual. It wasn't exactly life-giving.

Learn to recognize mindfuck.

"Yeah, we've got something against those Christians..."

those dum silly folks just kept popping up as Operation Rescue and their Cities of Refuge tour, in increasingly louder and more violent opposition to homosexuality, at a Christian convention at the school cafeteria where I work at ("Can Ah have fourteen pounds uv eh-ggs? Heh, heh, heh!"), and hell, even from my torrid past.

It's going to sound like an obituary, but I lost a once-good friend to the shackles of God when, disillusioned with life (or, knowing him, at his own lack of strength or motivation to get off his ass), he became a born again Christian and proceeded to not only denounce me as a hell-spawned demon but also went on to deny everything he used to -or said that he did--believe in.

Before his conversion, he was one of those apocalyptic anarchists who advocated total chaos. He thought that modern civilization was an aberration with all its technological and scientific horrors and that it needed to be utterly destroyed. He looked forward to nuclear war as the chosen battleground for his private, violent version of anarchy. He believed in guns, bisexuality, bombs, punk, and bullets. He was convinced that the time was near, that the end of an era was emerging and the final conflict would begin.

He still believes the end is coming, but now it's God who's punishing the evil and corrupt, not apocalyptic anarcho-revolutionaries, and the subjects of this "cleansing" are no longer bankers or politicians but people like me. Homosexuality is perverted. Abortion is murder. Women are to be subject to the commands of men. Jesus is rising. Judgement Day is near and the heavens will rain fire and brimstone upon the face of the earth. The Bible says so. That kind of bullshit.

Within the space of a month he went from one extreme to the other. He was never a strong-willed person; yet at the same time he would refuse to admit he was wrong, even when it was obvious. He never could do anything for himself, always needing someone else to tell him what to think or how to act, someone else he could depend on to take care of everything because he was too scared, too weak to do for himself. He was insecure, self-hating, and paranoid, searching desperately for a packaged identity and ideology that he could swallow whole and be left with no questions left to trouble him or his mind. First it was an armed revolution that consumed him; now it's The Lord Almighty, hallelujah.

How quickly friends become enemies. I never liked his brand of violently romanticized anarchism (I've always thought it was stupid, adolescent, and completely unrealistic), but if I ever saw him again, I'd probably throttle him. He can now sit back and pass judgment on everything and everybody and all he needs to say is "The Bible says so" and no synaptic brain activity need take place at all for him to "know" he's right. He's safe and secure within his little (and I do mean little) prison of a mind. He doesn't have to think, act, or be on his own.

(Any conclusions about the similarity in mentalities between apocalyptic anarchists and fundamentalist Christians are obvious enough that I won't bother to mention them.)

So no, I didn't mean for so much anti-Christian stuff to show up this issue, but like I said, they've been everywhere: blocking clinics, asking me for more dead animal flesh ("What's that? Tofu? Is it meat? No? Then give me thirty-two pounds uv bacon, heh, heh, heh!"), bashing queers, and calling me demon-spawn.

Those silly Christians....

Throughout this issue you will notice that I spend alot of time bashing Catholics in particular. It is not my intention to focus on them specifically. They just make such a good target and so readily represent everything it is I hate about Christians in general. Plus they are one of the most widely spread forms of Christianity on Earth.

Shannon

AGAINST GAYS
Members of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., claim the Bible makes their case.

I am shaking with rage. I just had an hour-long debate with my sister. She is 28 years old and one of the most ignorant and stubborn people I have ever known. She tried to convince me that feminism has done no good except to make women more aware of the atrocities they suffer, and that religion is the only means of providing moral values and communities; that ethnically and culturally segregated schools, both private and public, are the best means of teaching right from wrong; that groups of 11 year olds running down the street using the word "fuck" is indicative of the violence and general bad behavior they will exhibit later in life, and that the multi-curtural/multi-ethnic state school system is to blame for that; that humans are above animals; that we were all put here by God; that evolution is just another theory; that while she can not respect someone who fucks children, it is not acceptable for me to not respect her for eating flesh, because she has faith she is happier than me.

It is not because she has faith she is happier than me. It is because she has blind faith she is happier than me. It is because she is ignorant that she is "happier" than me.

There are many reasons I am not happy, and religion would not solve that. I do not see religion as a solution to the problems that make me unhappy. They are world problems, political problems. Issues such as speciesism, racism, sexism, and heterosexsism. How does religion solve any of these? It does not.

Religion provides an acceptable justification for prejudice. All religions that I know of prescribe specific roles to the genders. This is restricting, constricting, and oppressive. Religion justifies sadistic mutilation rituals like circumcisions and clitoridectomies. It make rape within marriage acceptable. It makes "families" holy creations that should not be infiltrated, and does nothing to prevent the excessive abuse that occurs behind closed doors within those families.

As the papacy became more powerful, problems between Church and State became acute. Hence, at the end of the fifth century C.E., Pope Gelasius I set forth the principle of the "two powers": the sacred authority of the popes coexisting with the royal power of the kings—with the kings subordinate to the popes. This principle later developed into the doctrine of the "two swords": "The spiritual sword the popes wielded themselves, delegating the temporal sword to lay rulers, but the latter must nevertheless use the temporal sword according to papal directions." (*The New Encyclopædia Britannica*)

On the basis of this doctrine, during the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church claimed the right to crown emperors and kings so as to legitimize their authority, thus perpetuating the ancient myth of "sacred kingship."

The *New Catholic Encyclopedia* states: "At a time when the pope was exerting a universal spiritual and even temporal power over the heads of states, the idea of divine right put the kings of national states in a position to justify their authority as being equally divine with that of the pope."*

THE INQUISITION IN MEXICO

How Did It Happen?

IMAGINE that you are before a religious court that wants to force you to believe what that religion teaches. You do not know who is accusing you or what you are accused of. Instead of being told, you are being forced to provide a reason for your arrest, to explain what you believe the charge against you is, and to tell who the accuser is.

Be careful how you answer—you could confess to something that you have not been accused of and make your situation worse! You could also implicate people who had nothing to do with the charge being brought against you.

If you do not confess, you may be tortured by having a great quantity of water forced down your throat. Or you may have your arms and legs tied progressively tighter on a torture table until the pain is excruciating. Your property has already been confiscated by the court, and you will most likely never get it back. Everything is done in secret. If you are found guilty, you may be exiled from your country or even burned alive.

In this 20th century, you may find it difficult to comprehend a religious action as horrible as this. But several centuries ago, such atrocities took place in Mexico.

"Converting" the Native Population

When what is now Mexico was conquered by the Spaniards in the 16th century, a religious conquest took place as well. The religious conversion of the native peoples was little more than a substitution of traditions and rites, since few Catholic priests concerned themselves with teaching the Bible. They did not bother to learn the language of the natives or to teach them Latin, in which religious doctrine was available.

Some thought that the Indian should receive complete religious instruction. But others were of the same opinion as Friar Domingo de Betanzos, who, according to Richard E. Greenleaf in his book *Zumárraga and the Mexican Inquisition*, "believed that the Indian should be denied instruction in Latin because that would lead to his realizing how ignorant the clergy was."

Inquisition Against Native Peoples

If native-born Mexicans did not embrace the new religion, they were regarded as idolaters and were severely persecuted. For example, one of them publicly received one hundred lashes for worshiping his pagan idols, which he had buried beneath an idol of Christendom in a simulated act of "Christian" worship.

On the other hand, Don Carlos Ometochtzin, tribal chief of Texcoco and grandson of the king of the Aztecs, Netzahualcóyotl, verbally attacked the church. Greenleaf states that "Don Carlos had particularly offended the Church because of having

preached to the natives about the dissipation of the friars."

When Friar Juan de Zumárraga, inquisitor at the time, learned about this, he ordered the arrest of Don Carlos. Accused of being a "dogmatizing heretic," Don Carlos was burned at the stake on November 30, 1539. Many other natives were punished under charges of sorcery.

Inquisition Against Foreigners

Foreigners living in Mexico who refused to accept the Catholic religion were accused of being heretics, Lutherans, or Judaizers. The Portuguese Carvajal family was one example of this. Charged with practicing the Jewish religion, almost all of them were tortured by the Inquisition. The following sentence pronounced against a member of this family reflects the horror: "The said Doña Mariana de Carvajal [I do] condemn to be . . . given the garrote [an instrument of strangulation] until she dies naturally, and then that she be burned in a blazing fire until she turns to ashes and of her not even the memory remains." That is just what happened.

Whenever a foreigner threatened the clergy's power, he was brought to trial. A man named Don Guillén Lombardo de Guzman was accused of wanting to liberate Mexico. However, the charge brought by the Holy Office for his arrest and trial was for being an astrologer and sectarian heretic of Calvin. During his imprisonment he went out of his mind. Finally he was burned alive at the stake on November 6, 1659.

The book *Inquisition and Crimes*, by Don Artemio de Valle-Arizpe, describes that occasion: "They went tying up the culprits, fastening them to the stake with an iron collar around the throat. . . . The holy bonfires of the faith began to burn in a whirlwind of red and black. Don Guillén . . . let himself suddenly drop and the collar that was holding him by the neck strangled him, his body disappearing afterward in the horrifying splendor of the blaze. He left this life after seventeen years of slow and continuous suffering in the somber jails of the Holy Office. The bonfires went dying down little by little, the cardinal red tumult of their flames fading away, and when they became extinguished, only a bright pile of embers was left glowing in the night."

"Holy Office" Established

As already noted, many native and foreign-born Mexicans were punished, and some were killed for criticizing or for not accepting the new religion. This brought about an inquisition created by the friars and later by the bishops. However, the first General Inquisitor in Mexico, Don Pedro Moya de Contreras, came from Spain in 1571 to set up officially the Tribunal of the Holy Office of Inquisition there. This court quit functioning in 1820. Thus, from 1539, there were some three hundred years of harassment, torture, and death for those who did not share the Catholic beliefs.

When someone was accused, he was tortured until he confessed. The court expected him to renounce his anti-Catholic practices and accept the beliefs of the church. The accused was freed only if he proved his innocence, if his guilt could not be proved, or, lastly, if he confessed and repented. In the latter case, his statement that he detested his offense and promised to make amends for what he had done was publicly read. In any event, he lost his property and had to pay a heavy fine. Found guilty, he was turned over to the secular authorities to be punished. This generally ended with his being burned at the stake, either while still alive or after having been put to death moments before.

For public execution of sentences, a huge auto-da-fé was held. A public proclamation would be made throughout the city to inform everyone of the day and the place to convene. That day the condemned ones would come out of the jails of the Tribunal of the Holy Office dressed in a *sambenito* (a kind of cloak without sleeves), carrying a candle between their hands, a rope around their neck, and a *coroza* (cone-shaped hat) on their head. After the crimes against the Catholic faith were read, the punishment decided upon for each victim would be meted out.

In this way many were condemned and punished in the name of religion. The cruelty and the intolerance of the clergy were evident to the crowds who observed the victims dying at the stake.

The climate of religious tolerance that now prevails in Mexico allows people to exercise freedom as to the way they worship God. But the centuries of the so-called Holy Inquisition remain as an evil page in the history of the Mexican Catholic Church.

Religion Takes Sides

ON September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, starting World War II. Three weeks later *The New York Times* carried the headline: "German Soldiers Rallied by Churches." Did German churches really support Hitler's wars?

Friedrich Heer, Roman Catholic professor of history at Vienna University, acknowledged that they did: "In the cold facts of German history, the Cross and the swastika came ever closer together, until the swastika proclaimed the message of victory from the towers of German cathedrals, swastika flags appeared round altars and Catholic and Protestant theologians, pastors, churchmen and statesmen welcomed the alliance with Hitler."

Indeed, church leaders gave unqualified support to Hitler's war effort, as Roman Catholic professor Gordon Zahn wrote: "The German Catholic who looked to his religious superiors for spiritual guidance and direction regarding service in Hitler's wars received virtually the same answers he would have received from the Nazi ruler himself."

Religions on the Other Side

But what were churches saying in the countries that opposed Germany? *The New York Times* of December 29, 1966, reported: "In the past local Catholic hierarchies almost always supported the wars of their nations, blessing troops and offering prayers for victory, while another group of bishops on the other side publicly prayed for the opposite outcome."

Was this support of opposing armies done with Vatican approval? Consider: On December 8, 1939, just three months after the outbreak of World War II, Pope Pius XII issued the pastoral letter *Asperis Commoti Anxietatibus.* The letter was addressed to chaplains in armies of the warring nations, and it urged those on *both sides* to have confidence in their respective military bishops. The letter admonished the chaplains "as fighters under the flags of their country to fight also for the Church."

Religion often takes an aggressive lead in mobilizing countries for war. "Even in our churches we have put the battle flags," admitted the late Harry Emerson Fosdick, a Protestant clergyman. And regarding the first world war, British brigadier general Frank P. Crozier said: "The Christian Churches are the finest blood-lust creators which we have, and of them we made free use."

However, that was religion's record in the past. What about its recent role in the war in republics of the former Yugoslavia, where most people are either Roman Catholic or Orthodox?

Religion's Responsibility

A headline in *Asiaweek* of October 20, 1993, declared: "Bosnia Is an Epicenter of Religious Conflict." A headline for a commentary in the *San Antonio Express-News* of June 13, 1993, proclaimed: "Religious Chiefs Should End Bosnian Woes." The article said: "The Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Muslim faiths . . . can't slough off responsibility for what is happening. Not this time, not with the whole world nightly watching. It's their war. . . . The principle that religious leaders bear responsibility for warfare is clear. Their very sanctimoniousness provokes it. By blessing one side over the other they do so."

Why, for example, is hatred between members of the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Churches so great? Popes, patriarchs, and other church leaders are responsible. Ever since the final separation between these religions in 1054, church leaders have fostered hatred and wars between their members. The Montenegrin newspaper *Pobeda,* September 20, 1991, pointed to that religious schism and its consequences in an article about the recent fighting. Under the title "Killers in the Name of God," the article explained:

"It is not a question of politics between [Croatian president] Tudjman and [Serbian leader] Milošević but rather it is a religious war. It should be stated that already a thousand years have passed since the Pope decided to eliminate the Orthodox religion as a rivalry. . . . In 1054 . . . the Pope declared the Orthodox Church responsible for the separation. . . . In 1900 the first Catholic congress explicitly explained the plan of genocide against the Orthodox for the 20th century. [This] plan is now taking place."

However, the recent conflict is not the first example of religious strife in this century. Fifty years ago, during World War II, Roman Catholics tried to eliminate the Orthodox Church presence in the area. With the pope's backing, the Croatian nationalist movement called Ustashi came to govern the independent state of Croatia. *The New Encyclopædia Britannica* reports that this Vatican-approved rule employed "extraordinarily brutal practices, which included executions of hundreds of thousands of Serbs and Jews."

In the book *The Yugoslav Auschwitz and the Vatican*, not only are these mass killings documented—involving tens of thousands of victims—but the Vatican's involvement in them is also documented.

On the other hand, the Orthodox Church has backed the Serbs in their fighting. In fact, one Serbian unit leader was quoted as saying: 'The Patriarch is my commander.'

What could have been done to stop the killing, which in Bosnia and Herzegovina alone has left as many as 150,000 either dead or missing? Fred Schmidt declared in the *San Antonio Express-News* that the UN Security Council should pass "a formal resolution calling on the pope, the patriarch of Constantinople, and [the other leaders] of the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Muslim churches having jurisdiction in Bosnia-Herzegovina to forthwith call off their dogs and meet together to figure out how their faithful can find it in their hearts to live as neighbors with those of other faiths."

In a similar vein, a commentary in the Scottsdale, Arizona, *Progress Tribune* concluded that the war "might be stopped if the religious leaders over there got serious about stopping it." The article suggested that they do that "by immediately excommunicating any congregant who fires a shell at Sarajevo."

No Real Force for Peace

However, popes have consistently refused to excommunicate the worst of war criminals, even when fellow Catholics have appealed for such action to be taken. For example, the *Catholic Telegraph-Register* of Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A., under the heading "Reared as Catholic but Violates Faith Says Cable to Pope," reported: "An appeal has been made to Pius XII that Reichsfuehrer Adolph Hitler be excommunicated. . . . 'Adolph Hitler,' [the cable] read in part, 'was born of Catholic parents, was baptized a Catholic, and was reared and educated as such.'" Yet Hitler was never excommunicated.

Consider, too, the situation in parts of Africa where brutal warfare has raged. Fifteen Roman Catholic bishops from the African nations of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire confessed that, despite the presence of many baptized "Christians" in the region, "internal conflicts have led to massacres, destruction and forced removals of people." The bishops admitted that the root of the problem "is that the Christian faith has not sufficiently penetrated the mentality of the people."

The *National Catholic Reporter* of April 8, 1994, said the "pope . . . felt 'immense pain' at fresh reports of conflict in the tiny African nation [of Burundi], whose population is predominantly Catholic." The pope said that in Rwanda, where about 70 percent of the population is Catholic, "even Catholics are responsible" for the killing. Yes, Catholics on both sides have massacred one another, even as they have in countless previous wars. And, as we have noted, other religions have done the same.

Are we therefore to conclude that all religions take sides in war? Is there any religion that is a true force for peace?

A disunited church produces disunited people. In the Balkans, both Serbian and Croat "Christians" feel that Christ is with them in their "just" war. Many wear crucifixes in battle; one, it is reported, "always held his crucifix in his mouth when the fighting was fiercest."

AMERICA'S HEALTHCARE CONTROLED BY CATHOLICS?

The Catholic Bishops Conference bartered their, up to now, anemic support for universal coverage, only if abortion services and birth control were excluded from coverage. They also wanted to make sure that Catholic hospitals could continue as a profit center for Church institutions. They needed to be certain that all medical services that Catholic institutions find morally objectionable were not part of the standard benefits package, nor part of the plan certification provisions.

Therefore, the conscience clause and the certification clause had to be written so that they could exclude not only abortion, but birth control, and fertility control like tubal ligation. This exclusion would hold not just for the Church but for all Americans.

The most pressing danger to the House bill is a Hyde-type amendment about the use of federal funds because it has a portion which extends Medicare–known as Medicare Part C–for all Americans who would not be able to afford private health insurance. This could be almost 60% of the populace. In this provision there are both benefits and dangers. All women, including poor women on Medicaid, would be at the same standard of health care and abortion services as the rest of the American women. However, the reverse is also possible–that the arguments used to deprive those on Medicaid of abortion services will be extended to <u>all</u> those on Medicaid.

A potential compromise is a limited opt out provision for those who do not want to personally have abortion coverage for themselves. This would have to be carefully crafted so it would not unduly raise premiums.

It is obvious that denying funds for abortion services in any health reform plan will have the practical effect of making access so scarce it would be as though the Supreme Court had, indeed, overturned ***Roe v. Wade***.

The fall issue of Pro Choice Idea said: In Portland Maine, where merger talks between three hospitals were undertaken, concern arose when rumors circulated that Mercy Hospital, a facility owned by the Catholic church, would demand that it's abortion and contraception ban be extended to all three hospitals.

Maine Choice Coalition alerted members and forced the muzzled controversy into the open. After front page press coverage and ensuing public debate, consolidation talks fell apart. Mercy Hospital declared that its operating philosophy "rested exclusively with the Catholic Church and can not be assigned to any other entity."

Pro-Conscience, a newsletter of Vermont Catholics for Free Choice, reported in its November/December issue that "A ruling by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith says a woman whose damaged uterus could pose a severe threat to her health in the event of a future pregnancy is not permitted to have a tubal ligation or hysterectomy.

According to this Vatican ruling, the uterus must be so damaged as to present an immediate threat to her health or life in order for a hysterectomy to be morally permitted.

When U.S. bishops questioned whether a Catholic hospital could remove the uterus or perform a tubal ligation should the uterus be too damaged to carry a future pregnancy, the Congregation stated that 'a hysterectomy is not morally acceptable as a means of avoiding a potential problem pregnancy.'"

Champion of life — and killing

Two Christian moralists square "Godly force" with saving the unborn

By TOM BATES
of The Oregonian staff

"As we condemn abortion and euthanasia, we likewise condemn as inexcusable the deliberate destruction of another person's property or the act of inflicting bodily harm ... on abortionists," Oregon Right To Life reaffirmed in an official policy statement.

Acts of force need not be misconstrued as vengeful. Forceful deeds are not necessarily wrong.

— Michael Bray, "A Time to Kill"

But a militant minority represented by Andrew Burnett and his Advocates for Life Ministries in Northeast Portland took the hard line. The "pro-life fellowship" broke up.

Burnett, a 40-year-old father of five, publishes "Life Advocate" magazine, a monthly with about 3,000 circulation. The magazine promotes the activities of the American Coalition of Life Activists, an umbrella group for the most militant anti-abortion groups in the country.

Burnett, who with other members of Advocates for Life is the target of an ongoing FBI investigation, has taken his crusade a step further with the publication of a book justifying homicide against abortionists. "Acts of force need not be misconstrued as vengeful," the book argues. "Forceful deeds are not necessarily wrong."

Provocatively titled "A Time to Kill," the 200-page paperback was written by Michael Bray, co-pastor of the Reformation Lutheran Church in Bowie, Md. Bray was imprisoned from 1985 to 1989 after being convicted of conspiracy in the destruction of seven East Coast abortion clinics.

"It may be arguable in a given situation," he writes, "that Christians ought to conduct themselves in a peaceful and nonviolent manner, but such behavior is not essential to true Christian piety."

Bray draws a sharp distinction between murder and homicide and between force and violence. Force, he argues, is "amoral" and can be used for both good and evil.

Under certain circumstances, refraining from forceful action may be immoral, he contends. "What is our moral judgment of the nonviolent behavior of bystanding citizens in New York City who watched a woman — Kitty Genovese — being stabbed to death over a 45-minute period?"

As proof that the Bible sanctions violence, including homicide, for a just cause, Bray cites the case of Moses, who killed an Egyptian guard and fled. "To be sure, the Godly use of force is easily demonstrated from Scripture," he writes.

As for the oft-cited pacifistic remarks in the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus told his followers to "turn the other cheek" and to love their enemies, Bray says it's all "hyperbole." Even Jesus used "Godly force" to clear the money-lenders out of the temple, he points out.

According to Burnett, the manuscript of "A Time to Kill" received critical readings and input from several local biblical authorities, including Jerry Propst, pastor at Hillsboro's First Baptist Church, and Carl Laney, a professor of biblical literature at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland. The book's dust jacket bears a laudatory quote from Laney.

The 200-page paperback had a first printing of 3,000 and will be distributed by Reformation Press, a company owned by Bray, Burnett said.

Burnett said he had no qualms about assigning the book to a convicted felon.

"I don't know what he did, but it wouldn't make a difference to me," he said. "If he had used force before, it wasn't a problem."

Jude Hanzo of the Women's Feminist Health Center, a Portland abortion clinic that has been the target of numerous protests and blockades, called the publication of "A Time to Kill" a ploy to get media attention and to frighten clinic operators such as herself.

Citing four West Coast firebombings of abortion clinics in the last two weeks, Hanzo said clinics are in an "emergency situation" and they are all "on the alert."

"It is not a two-sided issue," Hanzo said. "A majority of Americans disagree with the destruction of clinics, the murder of physicians and people who work at clinics. That's why they (Advocates for Life) do the book. It's a media tactic to terrorize the providers and to obtain some legitimacy."

After a 10-year collaboration, Oregon Right To Life recently disassociated from the Advocates over the question of means. Lynda Harrington, Oregon Right To Life director, said the dispute was not just over biblical interpretation.

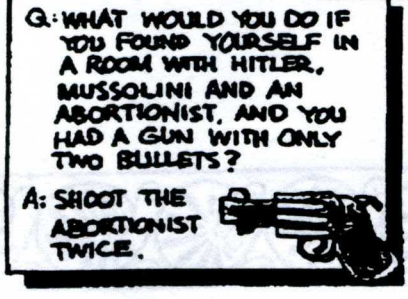
"Many in the pro-life movement do not come from the religious right," she said. "For example, I am a lifelong Democrat and a feminist. To me it's a human-rights issue."

Acknowledged Burnett: "It has split the movement."

Burnett said he nevertheless hopes to publish a sequel to the Bray book that he says makes an even stronger case for the use of force to stop abortions.

"It's more interesting, faster-paced than Bray," he said.

Burnett said he is not worried that such books may inspire acts of violence like the fatal shootings in Florida. "The kind of person willing to take a life-and-death risk, they aren't going to do that just because they read a book," he said.


Q: WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF IN A ROOM WITH HITLER, MUSSOLINI AND AN ABORTIONIST, AND YOU HAD A GUN WITH ONLY TWO BULLETS?
A: SHOOT THE ABORTIONIST TWICE.

A "joke" from LDI's Bottom Feeder

CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTIONISM: THE THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT FOR "DEFENSIVE ACTION"

Five days after David Gunn's murder, Rev. Paul J. Hill made an appearance on the *Phil Donahue Show*. Hill, a former ordained minister with The Orthodox Presbyterian Church, presented a "Biblical justification" for assassinating abortion providers.

The church to which Hill was affiliated is a break-away sect from main-line Presbyterianism. They are Biblical literalists who believe every word contained in the Bible is historically true as written. Many Orthodox Presbyterian leaders are also adherents of the exremist doctrine known as Christian Reconstructionism. For example, its chief ideologist, R.J. Rushdoony, the director of far-right Chalcedon Foundation, was an Orthodox Presbyterian minister. Rushdoony is also a "former" John Birch Society operative and is currently a close ally of Howard Ahmanson Jr., heir to the Home Savings & Loan Association fortune; California state Senator, Robb Hurtt, the owner of Container Supply Corporation; Roland Hinz and Edward Astinger III, the owners of 19 Christian Right radio stations.

Their chief organizing venue is the the Sacramento-based Capitol Resource Institute, affiliated with James Dobson's Focus On The Family. Ahmanson, Hurtt and Rushdoony are also members of the secretive Far-right Council.

Rushdoony is a prolific writer and the author of dozens of books dealing with the topic of "reforming" society through the creation of a clerical-fascist "Christian Republic" in the U.S. (Go to your video store and rent The Handmaid's Tale).

Christian Reconstructionists work toward the elimination of abortion, homosexuality, divorce, pornography, labor unions, social welfare and secular education. Key leaders of the "rescue" movement, including Randall Terry, Joseph Foreman, Keith Tucci and others, are adherents of the Reconstructionist doctrine and have helped popularize this extremist ideology.

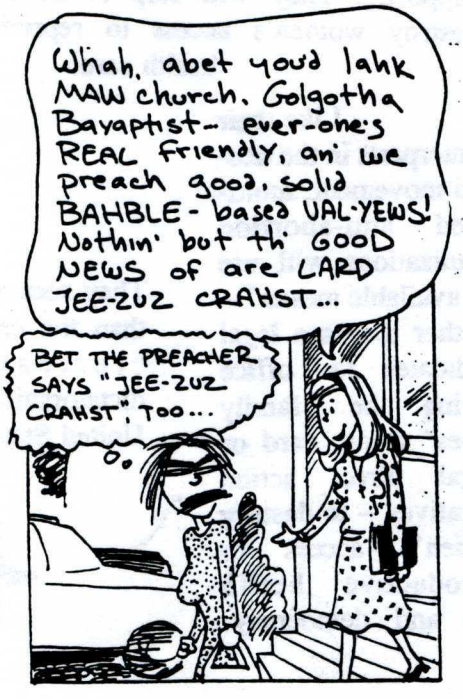
Major revisions of the penal code in a future "Christian Republic" would lead to a broad expansion of the number of "crimes" for which the penalty would be death. Abortion, homosexuality, adultery and blasphemy, to name a few of the purported "crimes against the family" identified by Rushdoony and others, would become capitol offenses. During an interview with journalist Bill Moyers, Rushdoony expressed the view: "The Bible identifies 15 crimes against the family worthy of the death penalty. Abortion is treason to the family and deserves the death penalty. Adultery is treason to the family; adulterers should be put to death. Homosexuality is treason to the family, and it too is worthy of death."

LOW INTENSITY WARFARE: AN ANTI-ABORTION STRATEGY OF TERROR.

It is but a short step from Rushdoony's advocacy of state imposed death penalties for abortion providers and the women who have the procedure, to Operation Rescue's battle-cry: "IF YOU BELIEVE ABORTION IS MURDER, THEN ACT LIKE IT IS MURDER!" Emerging from the theological extremism of the Christian Reconstructionism movement, Rev. Paul Hill has created a theoretical model for anti-abortion vigilante death-squads. It is no surprise to find the assassination of Dr. Britton and James Barrett and the wounding of June Barrett. Hill's accomplices for these monstrous crimes are leading figures in the national direct action anti-abortion movement.

J.D. Alder, speaking for the Klan on its Florida hotline, chastised whites for destroying their own young. "Abortion is racial suicide for the white race," he intoned, calling Paul Hill a hero. Ranting about "jigaboos hatching more baby niglets," Alder said "there is such a thing as justifiable homocide... Doctors deserve our undying hatred." At the same time, he underlined the racially selective nature of the Klan's anti-abortion stance by declaring the KKK would support higher taxes to pay for "tar-baby abortions."

The reality is that such modern religious movements have added to the confusion and produced spiritual anarchy as persuasive teachers corral followers for themselves. Jim Jones and David Koresh are recent examples of spiritual leaders who misled thousands. One Baptist minister is a leading member of the KKK. He links his campaign for white supremacy with religious revival and says that those who take part in it will "Be given the strength of providence on high, and given the courage of He who died on Calvary [Jesus Christ]."


Whah, abet youd lahk MAW church, Golgotha Bavaptist- ever-one's REAL friendly, an' we preach good, solid BAHBLE-based UAL-YEWS! Nothin' but th' GOOD NEWS of are LARD JEE-ZUZ CRAHST...
BET THE PREACHER SAYS "JEE-ZUZ CRAHST", TOO...

Defensive Action: The Political Context Of Terror

Andrew Burnett's *Life Advocate* has served as a national clearinghouse for those promoting Hill's "defensive action" doctrine. Between May 1993 and May 1994, I have tracked more than 44 articles pertaining to the subject. All but three have unambiguously endorsed Hill's extremist position. Contrary to the assertions of Rev. Patrick Mahoney, a founder of Operation Rescue and current Director of the Christian Defense Coalition, Rev. Hill is anything but "a fringe member of a fringe group."

In April 1994, during a national conference attended by nearly 100 leaders of the direct action anti-abortion movement, Hill's thesis dominated their discussion during the weekend gathering at Chicago's Radisson Lincolnwood Hotel.

Now that the "cultural civil war" trumpeted by Christian and other far-rightists such as Pat Robertson, Patrick Buchanan, Paul Weyrich, William Bennett, and Jerry Falwell has escalated to the point that a shooting war has begun,

Other players and key Pensacola anti-abortion operatives such as John Burt, the "ex" Klansman who is a regional Director of Rescue America, Donald Gratton, Burt's side-kick and Floyd Murray of Heartline Ministries have tried to also cover their tracks.

Donald Treshman, the National Director of Rescue America and a participant at the recent Chicago conference was quoted by Ms. Lewis as saying,

"This may be the start of the new civil war everyone has been talking about. As a result of the Clinton Administration's oppressive efforts to stop even peaceful pro-life activities, I fear there will be more bombings and shootings. Up to now, the killings have been on one side, with 30 million dead babies and maimed mothers. On the other side, there are two dead doctors. Maybe the balance is going to start to shift."

According to a chillingly prescient article by Tom Junod, in *GQ*. February 1994, Burt is reported to have said:

" Anyone can shoot a doctor. He knows that in the future, when the real work of his movement is being done by those who have decided that the only course of action is to take out ten or fifteen doctors, people will look at us the way we look at National Right to Life – that is, as 'wimps.' He can even see himself running a kind of Underground Railroad, offering safe haven to those who do the killing. He just doesn't want to become involved in the killing itself. That is the future, and Burt has not claimed it. The future has been claimed by someone else, a man named Paul Hill."

when i was 13 i was raped by a member of my family. as a result i became pregnant. if i had not been able to make my own choices, as far as my body and my life were concerned, i would have an 11 year old child right now. think about it.

These are not isolated crack-pots, but determined terrorists who have broad support. They will stop at nothing to destroy women's access to reproductive health care.

Like their counterparts in the neo-Nazi movement, multi-tiered anti-abortion organizations will use "all available means" – whether they are legal candidates for office playing the "family values" trump card or illegal direct action operatives – to destroy women's access to reproductive health care and democracy.

They seek nothing less than the creation of a clerical-fascist dictatorship in the United States.

Homosexuality is condemned in the Bible — So are divorce, eating pork and shellfish, trimming one's beard, wearing clothing with mixed fibers and other religions.

This anti-homosexual business is a hot-button issue and many people are willing to pay money to support it — Bingo! Lon Mabon and his inner circle have no real interest in seeing biblical morality becoming state law. The real issue is the hundreds of thousands of dollars harvested from the honest working people and retirees who believe the slickly packaged lies distributed to evangelical churches and Christian organizations.

The Kingdom of Rush

Talk radio host Rush Limbaugh is heard by more than 20 million people each week, on more radio stations than anyone else. He's one of the country's richest entertainers – $25 million a year, according to *Forbes* – and has penned two runaway bestsellers. He freely denounces feminism, welfare, abortion rights, affirmative action, and anything else on the liberal agenda, and has single handedly revived AM radio with his mix of conservative politics and humor.

BIGOTED

BESIDES, THAT KIND OF POLLUTION IS STILL LEGAL

In May, Dayton, Ohio, government officials warned the Spirit of Life Christian Center that its upcoming immoral-book-burning ceremony could not take place because its municipal pollution-control permit allowed it to burn only clean, dry wood.

GOD LOVES YOU...BUT I DON'T

Michael Stokes, 37, of Elsmore, Kansas, was charged in April with threatening President Clinton's life because Clinton refused to support prayer in public schools.

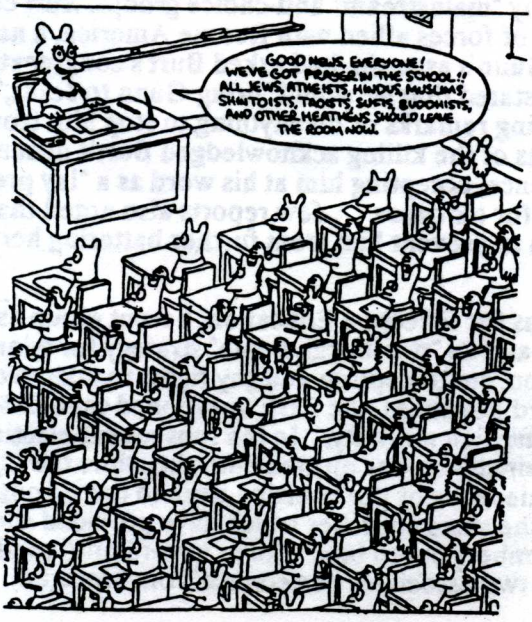
a pastor in Libungan, Philippines, accused another pastor of biting off his ear and spitting it out during a fight last spring over which of the two would be in charge of their church.

"YOU'RE WELCOME, DUMMY"

In March, elementary-school teacher Myra Obasi, 29, of Shreveport, Louisiana, was brought, bleeding from the eyes, to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas by her two sisters, who eventually were charged with having gouged out Obasi's eyes with their fingers because they thought she was possessed by the spirit of her father. Detectives were unable to question Obasi for several hours because she refused to stop chanting, "Thank you, Jesus."

Silent Radio (Turn It Down!!!)

In Kansas in January a 26-year-old man cut out his right eyeball because he said that he had seen a pentagram in the eye. He interpreted this as a satanic symbol. Police said that he popped the eyeball from its socket and used a knife to cut the connecting muscles and tendons. He then flushed it down the toilet.


GOOD NEWS, EVERYONE! WE'VE GOT PRAYER IN THE SCHOOL!! ALL JEWS, ATHEISTS, HINDUS, MUSLIMS, SHINTOISTS, TAOISTS, SUFIS, BUDDHISTS, AND OTHER HEATHENS SHOULD LEAVE THE ROOM NOW.

THE FOLLOWING SIX PAGES ARE EXCERPTS FROM

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: TARGET FOR RACIST TERROR

Neo-nazi involvement in the Anti-abortion movement

A Background Research Report
by
Michael Novick
for People Against Racist Terror
(PART)
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revised and updated March, 1993

Two bodies lay on the ground this time. Not only was a physician shot down in cold blood, but a man trying to protect him was dead and his wife wounded. Both were escorts, non-violent defenders of reproductive rights. The rhetoric of the anti-abortion movement had claimed new victims.

The killing of Dr. Gunn must be seen for what it is, a naked act of terrorism, directed at all women and at all health care practitioners who would defend women's rights and meet their needs. The assassin was no fringe fanatic, but a conscious adherent of the strategy expressed by Randall Terry that "the doctor is the weak link." Doctor Gunn had appeared on a "wanted poster" at an Operation Rescue rally in Montgomery AL which gave his home phone number. Leaders of Rescue America and other anti-choice groups quickly issued a moral justification for the execution of Dr. Gunn by labeling him a mass murderer. John Burt, the "former" Ku Klux Klan leader who as regional director of Rescue America led the protest at which Dr. Gunn was killed, drove the point home on national TV, that the "godless" doctors who perform abortions should fear for their lives. Burt referred to the killer, Griffin, and the doctor, Gunn, as equally "victims of the abortion system."

Jerry Falwell, then of the "Moral Majority," offered to defend and provide financial aid to the four clinic bombers in Pensacola, who came out of families involved in Burt's public picketing, in a pattern similar to most of those who have been caught for such bombings. Although he didn't condone violence, Falwell said, the four were "probably sincere people," and the blasts had focused national attention on abortions. He compared the clinic bombings with the civil rights movement, and noted that there had been "lootings, burnings all over America" after Martin Luther King was killed. In attempting to equate the clinic bombers with the Black liberation struggle, Falwell chose to ignore the "irony" that the Pensacola bombers were brought into the anti-abortion movement by the former head of the local KKK.

Undaunted and unopposed by "mainstream" anti-choice groups, Burt continued his organizing, becoming the leader of forces allied with Rescue America, a national anti-choice group. Although Michael Griffin, Dr. Gunn's assassin, had asked Burt's congregation to pray for Gunn to come to Jesus, and had publicly stated that he would "bring Gunn to Jesus," Burt and his fellows did not report Griffin's threatening remarks or do anything to stop him from carrying out his murder. Only a few press reports of the killing acknowledged Burt's documented history of Klan activity and of anti-woman violence, accepting him at his word as a "lay preacher," and allowing him to claim moral high ground for his cause. A few reports also noted that Griffin's wife had sought an injunction against him to prevent him from further battering her.

Here in Burbank, the Citizens for Effective Education, a front group associated with Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition and its "stealth candidate" strategy for winning elective office, is trying to use the issues of abortion, contraception and gay rights to take over the schools. At a candidates' night for school board nominees, the CEE questioned candidates closely about their positions on abortion and on "Christian morality." In the subsequent election, the candidate who most affirmatively embraced their stance was elected outright, while the incumbent school board president, who challenged the relevance of the abortion issue to the schools, was forced into a run-off. In areas of San Diego, the same churches which have provided shock troops for clinic blockades, have turned their members out to bloc vote in "pro-family" candidates to several school boards, including at least two associates of neo-nazi Tom Metzger.

Examples of the relationship between the public anti-abortion movement and the bombers abound. In California we can look at developments in San Diego, for instance, as one case study. In that city, the Birth Control Institute was bombed on September 13, 1984 after months of picketing and hostile confrontations by Christian fundamentalists led by Rev. Dorman Owens. After the bombing, public harassment and secret attacks continued. The offices of the clinic's lawyer were burglarized, and files stolen. Owens, who has demanded the death penalty for lesbians and gay men despite his professed reverence for "life", extended his picketing to the local gay-oriented Metropolitan Community Church, which also began to receive bomb threats.

Finally, a clinic bomber linked to Owens, with a history of prior arrests for anti-choice and anti-gay harassment, was caught in the act by San Diego police in the summer of 1988. Eric Everett Svelmoe, a member of Owens' fundamentalist Bible Missionary Fellowship, was arrested by the Criminal Intelligence Unit of the San Diego P.D. on a stakeout at the Alvarado Family Planning Clinic. Disguised in a woman's wig and black-face, Svelmoe drove a pickup with its lights out onto the grounds of the clinic, and planted a pipe-bomb attached to a two gallon gasoline drum under the clinic stairs. He was followed to his home, where he was arrested; a .357 magnum and ammunition were seized from the truck.

Rev. Owens claimed in 1988 that he was "shocked" by the arrest of Svelmoe, but he called Svelmoe "committed to the Christian cause." Svelmoe's willingness to carry his Christian commitment into illegal action in Owens' causes was a matter of public record. In 1985, Svelmoe's pilot's license had been suspended by the F.A.A. when he buzzed the San Diego Gay Pride parade with an anti-gay banner during an Owens-led counter-demonstration. He didn't have a permit for the banner. At the subsequent year's Gay Pride parade, someone again flew an anti-gay banner in circles over the marchers.

Detective Barone of the San Diego P.D. said that Svelmoe's fused pipe bomb and gasoline could have leveled the clinic had it not been defused. Jim Stathes, head of the local ATF, said the investigation was looking into links to two previous unsolved firebombings (of the Birth Control Institute in nearby El Cajon in 1984 and 1985). Flemming of Womancare pointed out that the San Diego events followed the pattern of clinic bombings around the country: "The public picketing either increases (dramatically) or stops suddenly right before the bombing. The Saturday before we got the bomb threat, the usual pickets weren't here." Sullenger's group did picket the Alvarado center the weekend before the attempted bombing.

In the aftermath of the foiled bombing attempt, Owens, his associate pastor and five followers were arrested by federal authorities and charged with conspiring to bomb the Family Planning Associates Medical group. Owens was also charged with and eventually convicted of witness tampering because of his attempts to get the captured bomber to with-hold his testimony about the other conspirators. Svelmoe agreed to cooperate with authorities. Based on his testimony, the U.S. Attorney filed a complaint detailing the purchase of chemicals and gunpowder to build the bomb, and a series of meetings to plan the bombing, one held at Bible Missionary Fellowship Church and another at Owens' home. Authorities alleged that Owens and the others, including Randall and Cheryl Sullenger, also conspired to bomb the feminist Womancare Clinic and the offices of Planned Parenthood. The defendants eventually either pleaded guilty or were convicted of various of the charges.

Joseph Scheidler, the director of the Pro-Life Action League explained to the press that his group had shut down six clinics in Chicago through its tactics. "Simply by (our) being there, they're upset inside ... and the doctor's nervous ... Women going in are thinking, 'This must be a bad thing to do, to murder my baby.' ... The complication rate will go up during the operation. That's not my fault." It is this true callousness about life which allows the public "pro-life" leaders to blink at the bombings, justify them, or as in Owens' case, to conspire to carry the bombings out. It is this same callousness which allows public anti-choice leaders to defend or justify the execution-style slaying of Dr. Gunn.

Other national leaders also made it clear throughout the '80's that the bombings did not faze them. Cal Thomas, then vice president of the Moral Majority under Jerry Falwell, wrote a nationally syndicated column which appeared in the L.A. Times headed "Bombing Abortion Clinics: It's Violent, But Why Not?" In it, he issued a defense of the bombings after two clinics near Washington, D.C. were blasted in 1984. "The line I like best," he wrote, "came from Jayne Bray of the Pro-Life Action Committee: I am personally opposed to the destruction of property, but I respect the rights of those who do it where babies are slaughtered." In a similar vein, the U.S. Catholic Bishops, who finally condemned the bombings only after more than a year of silence in the face of mounting pressure to speak out, attributed the cause of the bombings to "the violence unleashed on society by abortion."

Given this protection by the public movement, the bombers stepped up their efforts, increasing the number of attacks and the level of violence. In 1984, 30 clinics were bombed or burned. In the following two years, there were over 300 bombings, arsons, threats and attempted bombings. The bombers shifted to day time hours, heavier explosives, and letter bombs that can kill people, rather than simply trying to damage the facility. Yet in that same period, media attention drifted away, allowing the national scope and intensity of the issue to be obscured. Feeling that the bombings and their apologists had served their purpose in establishing the abortion issue on their terms, the anti-abortionists turned their efforts to mass direct action. But at no time have the bombings and death threats come to a complete halt. For example, firebombs caused $75,000 in damage to a clinic owned by Planned Parenthood of Ohio in 1991. The Columbus, OH clinic is five blocks from the state legislature, where a bill to restrict abortion rights was under consideration. In 1992, nearly 200 acts of violence against clinics and providers took place.

Support for the open violence continues to come from spokespeople of the public movement. When, just before New Year's 1987, two clinics in Cincinnati were firebombed during the daytime after a campaign by Americans Against Abortion, the president of the National Right to Life Committee told the Cincinnati Enquirer that clinic attacks won't stop until abortions do. "I don't think retaliatory violence will stop as long as the stimulus for it remains." As recently as the spring of 1990, after Operation Rescue was turned back in an attempt to shut down women's clinics in L.A., a local building housing a number of women's clinics and counseling offices was firebombed. In the 80's, right wing preacher Robert L. Hymers led a so-called "Fundamentalist Army" in L.A. which publicly prayed for the deaths of Supreme Court justices. This appears to have led to at least one death threat which required intensified security efforts by the Secret Service. In February 1991, a pro-lifer fired a shot at a California judge who had ordered the Norplant contraceptive implanted in a woman to stop her from having more children, in a trial for child abuse.

William Webster, when he was FBI Director (before going on to the CIA), held a special press conference to explain that investigating the clinic bombings was not a priority of the Bureau, because the bombings were not terrorism. "I'm trying to hold the line and not call everything terrorism," explained the FBI director, who previously had stoked the hysteria about terrorism in attacking the Black liberation movement, Arab-American supporters of Palestinian rights, and other dissidents. Webster elaborated that clinic bombings did not fit the FBI definition, because the bombers weren't "trying to shift the government," and added "(their) objective is social." The bombers weren't trying to shift the government – because the government was on their side. If Clinton is to do anything to reverse this, it will only be under unrelenting mass pressure for women's rights. THIS MEANS YOU.

Dan Hartnett, the head, under Reagan, of the division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms charged with investigating the bombings in place of the FBI, claimed there was no conspiracy involved in the bombings. He maintained for instance, that the Army of God did not exist, even after the group claimed credit for several of the bombings, kidnapped doctors in two different states who had provided abortion services, and sent death threats to the Supreme Court Justice who wrote the Roe v. Wade decision which upheld women's privacy rights and legalized many abortions.

The death threats and bomb threats were made credible by the bombings, and the government's policies served to justify them. With Dr. Gunn's execution, the threats have become reality. It is a series of short steps from the Republican platform accepting opposition to abortion rights as a litmus test for federal judges, to Pat Robertson announcing in his fundamentalist campaign for president in 1988 that he does not recognize court decisions as law, to Rev. Hymers of the Fundamentalist Army in Los Angeles flying a banner with his prayers for death over the public appearance by a Supreme Court justice, to the carrying out of such threats.

The violence committed by Operation Rescue and similar groups in their attempts to close down women's clinics, and the violations of women's right to choose, are part of a larger strategy by the right wing to turn back the gains of the women's movement and other progressive forces. Within the so-called "right-to-life" movement, racists and other fascist right forces are seeking to build a mass base and to sharpen the tools of repression and intimidation with which to crush all dissent. For example, in Dallas Texas in 1991, 5 Klansmen marched with Operation Rescue to shut down a clinic. They proclaimed that the Ku Klux Klan opposes abortion.

This is not an isolated instance. Tom Metzger, a national racist organizer based in southern California, has long proclaimed that "abortion is white genocide" in his newspaper WAR (White Aryan Resistance). A former Grand Dragon of the California KKK associated with David Duke, Metzger declared on his telephone hate-line in six California cities, "Almost all abortion doctors are Jews ... Almost all abortion nurses are lesbians ... Jews must be punished for this holocaust and murder of white children along with their perverted lesbian nurses."

Yet another example of this is the shooting attack on a Grand Rapids Michigan Planned Parenthood facility last September 30, 1992. Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) are investigating an associate of white supremacist Terence Paul, Leland Smart, as a suspect. Suspicion fell on Smart after a raid of Paul's home netted five fully-automatic assault rifles, two Uzi's, live grenades and 57,000 rounds of ammunition, along with Aryan Nations, Klan and neo-nazi propaganda.

WARY (White Aryan Resistance Youth), led by Tom Metzger's son John, and the Aryan Women's League, which moved its headquarters down to Metzger's home base of Fallbrook, CA and apparently includes his daughters, have propagandized nazi-skinheads and white racists to join the anti-abortion movement. In the San Francisco Bay Area, the Aryan Women's League, whose logo is a women's symbol above a swastika, has called on white women to have more babies to "propagate the race." David Duke has also attached himself to the anti-abortion cause. Louisiana's harsh anti-abortion law, which he supported, was passed as an amendment to a bill originally designed to legalize physical attacks on flag-burners.

But the linkage of racism to the anti-abortion movement is not restricted to hard-core neo-nazis. Father Paul Marx, one-time director of the "Human Life Center," which was an anti-abortion think tank in Minnesota, and now head of HLI (human life international) made it clear that even the establishment right-to-life groups are mainly concerned with white life, or the "American way of life." In an interview with the Minneapolis Star centering on his fear that "the white Western world is committing suicide," he explained his opposition not only to abortion but also to contraception – for whites. "I guess we have 250,000 Vietnamese here already, and they are going to have large families; the Orientals always do," he stated. "God knows how many Mexicans cross the border every night ... And if we ever have to fight the Russians, I wonder if these people will be willing to stake their lives."

This racist rhetoric leads not only to continued attacks against women and women's clinics, but also to violence against gay men and lesbians, Jews, Moslems, Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians. In La Verne, CA in 1990, for example, a group of nazi skinheads were convicted of attacking an Iranian couple and their infant because they were outraged that they had brought "another Jewish nigger baby into the world."

The Republicans who tried to distance themselves from David Duke in Louisiana because he was a "former" nazi and KKK leader instead supported his primary opponent, an ex-governor's brother, who had himself formerly been a member of the racist NSRP. In the aftermath of Duke's election to the legislature, these same Louisiana politicians supported his proposals to restrict births among welfare recipients, and used a law which would have permitted vigilantes to beat up flag burners with impunity as a vehicle to adopt a strict anti-abortion law.

Tom Metzger is more honest than the rest of the anti-abortion movement about the connection between abortion and nazi genocide. "In Germany under Adolph Hitler," he wrote, "abortion was a serious crime." In fact, the right wing's program today is very similar to the slogan of "Kinde, kuche, kirche" (children, kitchen and church) which the nazis used to express their vision of women's role in the Third Reich.

Phyllis Schlafley of the anti-abortion, anti-ERA Eagle Forum has proclaimed

"Christian Woman, starts with the knowledge that America is the greatest country in the world ... (She) must be a patriot and defender of our Judeo-Christian civilization ... (Chile under Pinochet) offers an outstanding example of how women can save a nation from Communist takeover ... It is primarily the women who deserve the credit for the overthrow of Allende ... Anything that Brazilian and Chilean women can do, Christian American women can do." But first, American women must be Christianized, forcibly if necessary.

When Pat Robertson was girding up for his run at the White House in 1988, he announced that the Constitution was written for a Christian nation, "but turn it into the hands of non-Christians and atheists, and it will destroy society." In Arizona in 1990, the Robertson wing of the Republicans united with toppled governor Evan Meacham to take control of the party, seeking the support of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for the notion that America is a Christian Republic. This is a premise very close to the Christian Identity doctrine of America as the promised land for the Aryans, the so-called British Israelites. In November 1992, a similar alliance of Christian fundmentalists and David Duke supporters took virtual control of the Louisiana Republicans.

There is a deadly symbiosis between groups focusing on race and gender issues and those seeking continued U.S. domination in the world. Fundamentalist groups like the Christian Broadcasting Network raised millions to support the murderous contras in Nicaragua. Jerry Falwell was both a principal spokesman of anti-gay reaction and a chief defender of U.S. and Zionist aggression in the Middle East. Anti-gay rallies have become a major vehicle for KKK and neo-nazi organizing in Connecticut, Kalamazoo and Houston, where the KKK joined with anti-gay and anti-abortion groups to defeat a gay rights ordinance. In Chicago in 1986, the Klan attacked a black anti-apartheid march on June 28, and the gay pride parade on June 29. Across California, the anti-gay campaigns of the Rev. Lou Sheldon's "pro-family" Values Coalition, has led to increasing gay bashing. In Oregon, the state affiliate of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition promoted the initiative that would have declared homosexuality perverse and required the destruction of all school and libary books that did not toe this line. In Colorado, Christian Identity minister Pete Peters, and white supremacist Richard Barrett's Nationalist Movement, were among the backers of a similar measure which was successfully pushed through by referendum.

In 1990 in Orange County, fundamentalists organized a crowd that included nazi skinheads to harass a lesbian and gay pride parade. Six people were arrested in the ensuing confrontation. The next month, the head of Bush's Civil Rights Commission flew to California to address an anti-gay symposium organized by the same fundamentalists. The topic of his speech: "Blacks, Animals, Homosexuals – What is a Minority?"

Connecting the demand for a stronger family and an attack on women's liberation with racism an d support for a stronger empire is no accident. Whatever their differences, the Ku Klux Klan, the fundamentalists and the Republicans share a view that it is essential to drive women back into a subordinate position within the family in order to strengthen a chauvinist social base that will fight to "make America great again." The denial of access to abortion is an attempt to imprison women within their reproductive capacities, and propagate the mechanisms of male supremacy which are essential to this society.

The actual destruction of families, the increase in child abuse and pornography, the violence against women which the right wing cynically exploits, are the product of the very system of empire we're being called on to defend. In fact, violence against women, in the streets and in the family, is a hate crime. This applies as much to spousal battering as it does to the killing of woman science students by a crazed male chauvinist in Canada; it applies as much to the doctors and corporations who profited from breast implants as to the sicko who carried out the hostage taking and sexual torture of coeds in Berkeley last summer. Hatred of women is so common in our culture, that we have a word for it: misogyny.

Though the right is winning converts, it has no solutions. Neither Pat Buchanan, Randall Terry nor Tom Metzger has the desire or the capacity to end the abuse of women and children within the male dominated capitalist family. Pornography and the degradation of women cannot be suppressed by the censorship efforts of the capitalist state because they are always the flip side of the attempt by class society to define and control women's sexuality and identity.

Thus, it was no surprise when New Right U.S. Senator Roger Jepsen, paragon of Christian morality, was caught patronizing a sex club, or when conservative Congressman Dan Crane was disclosed to have seduced a teenaged girl who worked as a page in his office, or when the Archbishop of Arizona confessed to having had sex with a number of women barely or not yet out of their teens, or when televangelists like Bakker and Swaggart were caught in notorious sexual pecadilloes. The string of such embarrassments for Congressional conservatives and Christian leaders continued into the 90's with Republican Rep. "Buz" Lukens, who was convicted of sex with a minor but still sought to retain his Congressional seat.

To defend women's right to choose, it is necessary to wage a counter-offensive on many fronts. We must expose the links of the public anti-abortion groups to the violence, target the government's tacit acceptance of this campaign, and oppose the right's broader program of racism and militarism. The right has a strategy for the 90's. Do we?

TTT is a unique and invaluable resource, and we believe you support PART's goals of transforming the conditions of oppression and injustice that produce groups like the Ku Klux Klan, WAR and racist bone-heads. But with postage costs going up again, we can't afford to send you the paper -- in fact, we may not be able to continue producing the paper in its current large tabloid format -- unless you help us financially.

A one-year membership in People Against Racist Terror (PART), with six bi-monthly issues of Turning the Tide, the Journal of Anti-racist Activism, Research, and Education, is $10.00.

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ATF offers reward

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is offering a $100,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of arsonists involved in attacks on abortion or family-planning clinics. The reward fund was created by the National Coalition of Pro-choice Groups. The toll-free number to call is (800) ATF-4867.

BY THE YEAR 2000

In November, Dr. Avi Ben-Abraham, president of the American Cryogenics Society, told an audience in Washington, D.C., that several high-ranking Roman Catholic Church leaders support human embryo cloning, despite the church's public stance against such research. According to Ben-Abraham, those church leaders hope to reproduce Jesus Christ from DNA fibers found on the Shroud of Turin.

CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL THESE DAYS

The Wilmington, North Carolina, *Star-News* reported in April that some parents from Gaston County had demanded that Africa and Germany be removed from maps and globes in local classrooms because they believe those places are anti-Christian. They also called for the suppression of Greek letters from the curriculum because they believe their use constitutes an endorsement of homosexuality.

. the late-Renaissance witch-hunts and trials resulted from a clash between women's rising aspirations and the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

HOLY SEXIST MEN

● By quoting biblical texts concerning "the proper role of women" theologians, preachers, and husbands were able to convince themselves and women that a woman's inferiority was ordained by God and women have suffered because of this for centuries. Saint Thomas Aquinas, the great Catholic theologian and philosopher stated:

● "As regards the individual nature, woman is defective and misbegotten; for the active power in the male seed tends to the production of a perfect likeness according to the male sex. While the production of women comes from the defect in the active power; or from some material indisposition, or even some external influence, such as that of a south wind, which is moist as the philosopher Aristotle observed."

● Things did not change for the better when Martin Luther came along. Luther wrote:

● "God created Adam Lord of all living creatures, but Eve spoiled it all. Women should remain at home, sit still, keep house and bear children. And if a woman grows weary and, at last, dies from childbearing, it matters not. Let her die from bearing; she is there to do it."

● Saint Augustine declared, "Any woman who acts in such a way that she cannot give birth to as many children as she is capable of, makes herself guilty of that many murders."

● Today the Reverend Jerry Falwell, head of the "Moral Majority", strongly opposes equal rights legislation because it "defies the mandate that the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." "Furthermore," Falwell states, "I believe that at the foundation of the women's liberation movement there is a core of women who were once bored with life, whose real problems are spiritual problems. These women have never accepted their God-given roles."

● The Southern Baptists, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, voted at their 1984 convention against the ordination of women, stating they must "preserve a submission that God requires." The resolution cites the Bible in holding that women should not be placed in authority over men in churches "lest confusion reign."

● Pope John Paul II still tours today's overpopulated world telling women that they are forbidden to use birth control or have an abortion even in the case of incest and rape. He instructs women to go back to their traditional roles as "obedient and serving companions to their husbands." He also refuses to have an audience with anyone who advocates the ordination of women in the Catholic Church. At the present time, just as in the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church argues against the ordination of women priests, because a menstruating priestess would "pollute" the alter. The Catholic Encyclopedia still declares that women are inferior to the male sex, "both as regards body and soul."

Salvi faces two state murder charges in the Dec. 30 attack on two Brookline, Mass., abortion clinics that left two women dead and five wounded.

In addition to the murder charges, a grand jury in Boston indicted him Wednesday on two federal firearms charges.

Yesterday, Salvi's attorney released a rambling six-page statement that talked of persecution against Catholics, urged the church to institute its own welfare system and listed jail food he said was tainted.

"I wish to have an interview with Barbara Walters within the year," said his statement, released at his request. "I will not release all information until that interview.

"If convicted of the charges I am accused of, I wish to receive the death penalty," the statement begins.

"If I am not proven guilty, upon release I will become a Catholic priest. This is not an admission of guilt. However, it is a statement about the persecution which the Catholic people face."

Spitz, a Baptist minister, along with David Crane and the Rev. Michael Bray of Bowie, Md., signed a petition endorsing the belief that the killing of abortion doctors is justifiable in defense of the unborn.

The petition was originally circulated by Paul Hill, convicted last year of murdering an abortion doctor and his bodyguard in Pensacola, Fla.

Since April of this year, Watson has been repeatedly calling for physicians who provide abortions to be killed. In an open letter to Gabelmann, Watson wrote:

"In case you are not aware, the people of British Columbia are gagging on the stench of death from babies killed by abortion. The blood of all these children calls out from the ground, and it does not cry out for mercy upon the killers: it cries out for vengeance. 'Vengeance is mine,' sayeth the Lord, 'I will repay.' God decrees, 'You shall not suffer a murderer to live amongst you.'

'Capital punishment for abortionists is an idea whose time has come.'"

Just to make sure he was not being misunderstood, Watson added,

"When this nation realizes what has gone on in abortuaries, if the perpetrators of the child extermination policy are not then properly dealt with at a fair trial, the mob will surely lynch them.... If the ultimate sanction is not soon legally enforced, so as to deter violence against babies, the stage will be set for an enraged mob to rid our community of these serial child killers — abortionists — one way or another."

"Studies indicate that most spontaneous abortions occur because the conceptus was defective. Studies of spontaneously aborted fetuses indicate that about 50 percent showed abnormalities that were incompatible with life; for example, many had gross chromosomal abnormalities. Thus, contrary to popular belief, psychological and physical traumas are not common causes of miscarriage. In fact, spontaneous abortions seem to be functional in that they naturally eliminate many defective fetuses.

In early September, the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo, Egypt, to set priorities and adopt a program of action for population planning in the next decade.

Although the results of the conference were not known at press time, international delegates proposed a draft program earlier this year, noting: "at least 500,000 women die each year as a consequence of pregnancy and childbirth, with 99 percent of those deaths occurring in developing countries. Almost all of those deaths are preventable. In some countries, as many as half of the maternal deaths may result from unsafe abortions."

But the draft's focus on women's reproductive rights provoked controversy at that earlier meeting. The Vatican, supported by a number of Catholic countries, objected to references to "reproductive health" or "contraception," insisting that abstinence should be practiced. The term "safe motherhood," for example, was challenged because of its possible reference to abortion.

Regardless of the final conference vote, you can express your views by supporting the U.S.'s own legislation, the International Population Stabilization and Reproductive Health Act (H.R. 2447/S. 1096), which would include reproductive choice in its policies and programs. The bill, which would affect our implementation of the U.N. program, was introduced in both the House and Senate last year but has yet to be voted on.

Please write your congressional representatives (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; and U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and encourage them to support H.R. 2447/S. 1096 for its promotion of women's reproductive health, and to ensure that the legislation provides improved access to safe abortion services internationally.

The hosest truth is, Our right to control our bodys is being taken away. The conservative(a.k.a. extremist) religious right is everywhere, permiating society with their propoganda and lies about saving the unborn. MEN who do what they wish with THIER bodys storm around calling women who choose not to have kids murderers. It is unfair that certain religious beliefs are used as weapons of opression. The Catholic church used to think masturbation was murder because they thought sperm was the essence of all life (duh). So what can we do? First off boycott companies like Dominos who bankroll huge amounts to operation rescue. Boycott Snapple who also support the anti choice movement financially. Pizza Hut? Dont eat there; They use Rush Limbaugh to sell their food as he claims "Its the RIGHT thing to do." Ha ha, NOT FUNNY. Tell people about companies that are anti Woman anti Choice etc. like Coors beer.

Christian Comics Presents Pornography for the Righteous

THE TROUBLES OF JANICE Vol. 1 & 2

Poor Janice — only 22, and sentenced to life in the dungeon for the crime of abortion. And yet there are worse things than an eternity in jail, as she soon finds out...! These two 64-page albums, written and illustrated by Erich von Gotha, are realistically rendered in sumptuous gray and brown washes. So convincing you'll really...feel her pain!

THE TROUBLES OF JANICE Vol. 1 and 2 [JANI1-2, $8.95 EACH]

Yesterday's devastating political news was compounded by the latest assassination attempt of an abortion provider--this time in Canada. It is clear that providers, without whom choice is a hollow promise, are being hunted like game. Obviously, doctors are no longer even safe in their homes, let alone clinics. Where will this end?

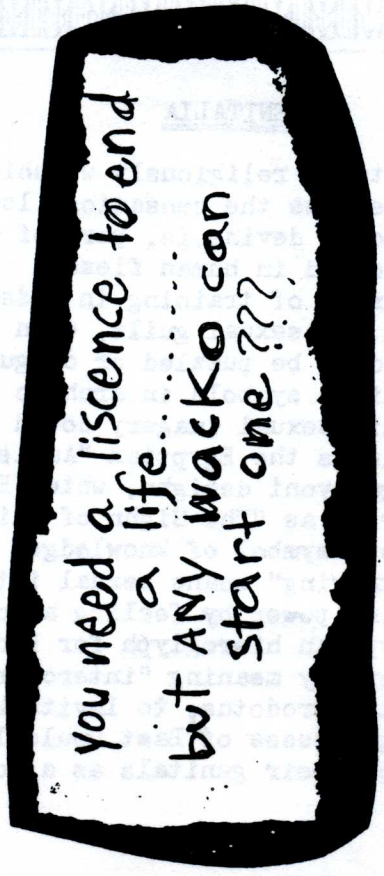
An illustration of the problems in California comes from *The Mainstream Voters Project Bulletin* of July 1994. Anti-choice activists throughout the country continue to make their presence felt on school boards and in the classroom.

ONE such activist is Connie Youngkin, who, the *Bulletin* reports introduced a proposal to the Poway Unified School District in California "that would require school personnel to identify any books or magazines that mention human reproduction and require parental consent before letting students use materials." Citing the book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, (which had been included on a Poway High School class's optional reading list) as an example of her concern, Ms. Youngkin has also organized and led parent meetings condemning public school restructuring programs and the California. Learning Assessment System (CLAS) tests.

One guest speaker, Gary Kreep, executive director of the United States Justice Foundation, claims in his literature that his organization has "provided legal advice and legal opinions to conservative and Christian board members under attack by professional bureaucrats, the ACLU, and various liberal special interest groups who are trying to impose political correctness in our schools."

While Youngkin expresses concern about the harm public education may inflict on her children, she has twice been convicted for breaking the law and has served time in jail for her illegal anti-abortion activities. During two successful bids for the State Assembly she received endorsement from *The Spotlight*, an anti-Semitic and racist publication of the Liberty Lobby.

The 1993-94 censorship report published by People for the American Way, entitled, *Attacks on the Freedom to Learn*, states that an all-time twelve year high has been reached in censorship efforts aimed at textbooks and other public education curricula materials. People for has documented over 462 such incidents in 46 states in the last school year with California, Texas, and Florida topping the list.



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The radical right's battle against sex education

ACCESS TO ABORTION HAS long been the battleground for the radical right's fight against women's control over their own bodies. In the nineties, however, the right is shifting some of its energies and money to the controversy over sexuality education in our public schools. We interviewed Debra Haffner, executive director of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) to learn more about the war being waged over what America's young people should be learning to protect their sexual health.

Where is the battle being fought and what are the stakes?

During the past three years, battles over sexuality education curricula have been fought in more than 230 communities in 43 states. Radical right activists have run for local school-board positions, taken over the boards and substituted programs centered on abstinence, fear and shame. The country is split on what we need to be teaching our adolescents about their sexuality—it's nothing short of a culture war. Some of these issues are being debated in Congress right now.

What do you think we need to teach kids today?

Considering that each year one million teenagers get pregnant and there are 12 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases, a *comprehensive* curriculum is what's needed. It needs to encompass sexual development, reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, affection, intimacy, body image and gender roles.

What should people do if they believe that teens deserve access to information on how to protect themselves if they decide to have sex?

They should learn whether there's a struggle in their community over what's being taught. They should support groups that favor comprehensive sexuality education and get involved with school-board politics. It's important, even if they don't have children, to vote for the candidates who defend access to full sexual information.

Though surveys show that seven in ten teens have had sex by the age of 18, only one-on-one conversation can reveal their ignorance and confusion about it. Wendy Arnold, president of the Peer Education Program of Los Angeles, reports that one teenager said she hoped to avoid HIV by not being "sexually active," an expression she had read or heard. "Good for you," thought Arnold, until she discovered that the girl thought not being sexually active meant being careful to lie motionless during intercourse.

**** The USA has the highest teen pregnancy rate of all the "developed nations" reported U.S.A. Today (2/9/95). Sexual activity levels here are no higher, but birth control is more readily available in the other countries. That's amazing.

**** In a related story, a bill that would require Massachusetts schools to notify parents when sex education classes are planned so parents can pull their kids out of class won Senate o.k. Next the House. Amazing. (U.S.A. Today, 3/4/95)

GENITALIA

Earlier cultures religiously worshiped genital organs because the sensations localized in them were considered devine,ie, part of Gods paradise miraculously embedded in human flesh.

After centuries of training in Judeo-Christian doctrines of sin and sexual guilt, even intelegent Westerners tended to be puzzled or disgusted by the profution of genital symbols in archaic religions.

However, this sexual imagery could not be ignored. A typical example is the Egyptian "Amulet of the Sam", obviously a lingam-yoni desighn, whieh Egyptologists delicately refer to as "The Sighn of Union". To early Egyptians it was a symbol of knowledge, much as the Biblical term "knowing" means sexual intercourse. So one "knows" devine power by feeling an orgasm.

Another Egyptian hieroglyph for knowing was "Seshemu", litterally meaning "intercours".

According to Herodotus, to invite knowledge of the Goddess, priestesses of Bast would lift up their skirts and expose their genitals as a Holy right.

BEAT THE BISHOP

For years I suffered under the delusion that.I was one of the only people on earth who actually masturbated. My peers ridiculed it, stating that only homos would engage in such vile acts. When I finally asked how something so pleasurable could be so wrong, the answer I got threw me for a loop. "Well," my friend explained rather conspiratorially, "every time you spill your seed, there's thousands and thousands of sperm in there. Every one of those sperm is a Christian soul that you're murdering. So jacking off is like killing thousands and thousands of potential Christians. Just killin' 'em."

Rather than dissuading me from masturbating, my friend's explanation only made me enjoy it all the more. With every orgasm I could envision thousands of writhing souls, a white sea of Christians twitching in death throes. I didn't particularly care for Christians even back then, and the image really appealed to me. It still does.

MOLESTATION, YES MASTURBATION, NO

In May, Jams Von Arx, 41, who had been on probation for child molestation in Wausau, Wisconsin, was jailed after he refused court-ordered sex therapy designed to induce interest in adult erotic images. He argued that such therapy is unconstitutional because it requires him to masturbate, which is against his religion.

Treatments for Self-Abuse and its Effects:
"A remedy which is almost always successful in small boys is circumcision...The operation should be performed by a surgeon without administering an anesthetic, as the pain attending the operation will have a salutary effect upon the mind...In females, the author has found the application of pure carbolic acid to the clitoris an excellent means of allaying the abnormal excitement."
— Dr. John Harvey Kellogg

THE COPPERTONE KID A VICTIM OF CHRISTIAN OPRESSION

OLD LOGO

NEW LOGO

Schering-Plough healthcare products inc. manufacture Coppertone suntan lotion. For over 25 years they have used to old logo. This year they changed to a new logo. I wonder if this change was due to pressure from the religious right.

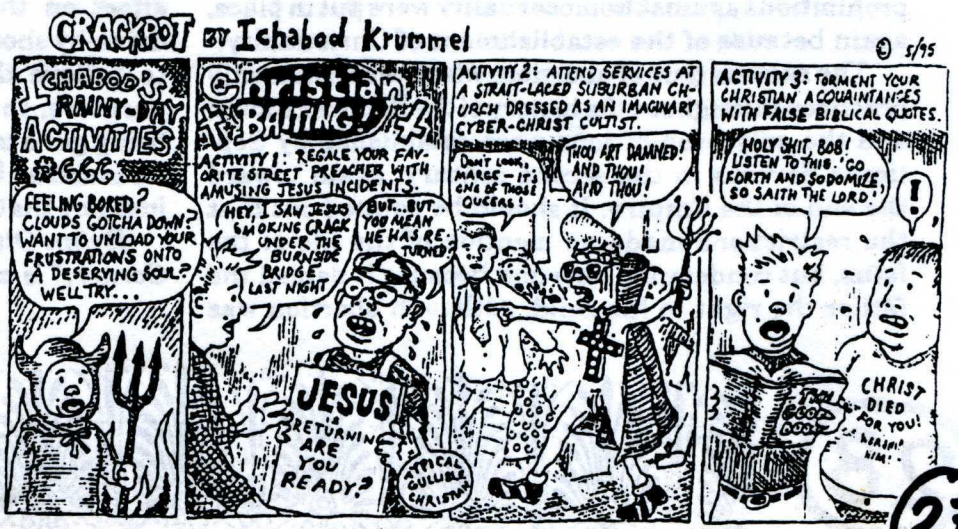
Cant you just picture sexually deprived Christian supremacists neurotic in their deviancy gasping in horror at the Coppertone Kid? "Oh my God! This is CHILD PORNOGRAPHY!!" Perverts getting their knickers in a twist and rallying the troops to forcibly ban this "disgusting smut". Christian ministries herding their "sheep" into letter writing campaigns. Threatening a nation-wide boycott if the company doesnt submit to their demands. Christians indulging in power for the sake of power.

Well, maybe I was just being parrinoid. So I wrote the company a letter. Three months later Ive still gotten no response. I wonder if that means their official statement is "No comment". What do you think?

Right onto some anarchist history! The Free Spirit was probably the world's first major anarchist movement that I know of, flourishing throughout the Middle Ages in virtually every part of Europe. It began in 1200AD among Paris intellectuals as a rebellion against the overwhelming power of the church.

Although the central group was swiftly executed by the church for 'heresy', their ideas spread from town to town, especially along trade routes. Women and weavers (such as the weavers of Antwerp) were particularly receptive. All denounced property, power, and privilege.

In 1259 they were excommunicated, the Church being especially horrified by the many Free Spirit women living in communal households - in Cologne they numbered 2000. According to the Bishops their chief sin was their independence from men; they were "idle gossiping vagabonds who refuse obedience to men under the pretext that God is best served in freedom". Everything about them was banned by the church and refusing to purchase absolution many were burnt or drowned for their belief in freedom. Forced underground they became mobile spreading into many countries. Their vivid message was carried by word of mouth but their propaganda also included the written word. Although Marguerite Porete was burned at the stake in 1310, her Mirror of Simple souls, was covertly distributed across Europe for several centuries. Other anarchist movements in pre-industrial revolution Europe included the Ranters and Diggers.


CRACKPOT BY Ichabod Krummel
© 5/95
ICHABOD'S RAINY-DAY ACTIVITIES
FEELING BORED? CLOUDS GOTCHA DOWN? WANT TO UNLOAD YOUR FRUSTRATIONS ONTO A DESERVING SOUL? WELL TRY...
Christian BAITING!
ACTIVITY 1: REGALE YOUR FAVORITE STREET PREACHER WITH AMUSING JESUS INCIDENTS.
HEY, I SAW JESUS SMOKING CRACK UNDER THE BURNSIDE BRIDGE LAST NIGHT
BUT...BUT YOU MEAN HE WAS RETURNED?
JESUS IS RETURNING ARE YOU READY?
TYPICAL GULLIBLE CHRISTIAN
ACTIVITY 2: ATTEND SERVICES AT A STRAIT-LACED SUBURBAN CHURCH DRESSED AS AN IMAGINARY CYBER-CHRIST CULTIST.
DON'T LOOK, MARGE - IT'S ONE OF THOSE QUEERS!
THOU ART DAMNED! AND THOU! AND THOU!
ACTIVITY 3: TORMENT YOUR CHRISTIAN ACQUAINTANCES WITH FALSE BIBLICAL QUOTES.
HOLY SHIT, BOB! LISTEN TO THIS. 'GO FORTH AND SODOMIZE SO SAITH THE LORD.'
!
CHRIST DIED FOR YOU!
BRAIN! BRAIN!

Roman fall bad analogy to U.S. woes

Dylan Krider

There is an increasing tendency among conservative religious and political leaders to compare the causes for the fall of Rome with declining morals in the United States. Phyllis Schlafly, an activist who has led campaigns against abortion, homosexual rights and offensive books, has made numerous references to the "scary comparison." Pat Robertson and virtually every other TV evangelist has also fallen into the temptation. A letter published recently in the *Wildcat* even suggested that anyone interested in what happens if a society allows its values to decay should "check out a book on Roman history." Well, I decided to take him up on his offer, and what I found was quite interesting.

Proponents of the "Roman Comparison" have been suggesting that Romans accepted the practice of abortion, were sexually promiscuous and recognized homosexuals as the third sex, leading to the fall of Rome, which is generally accepted to be in A.D. 476, because it marks the date that the last Roman emperor, Romulus Angustulus, was deposed. Surprisingly, just over 150 years earlier, when a lack of moral values was supposedly bringing about the collapse, Christianity was declared the state religion by Constantine, and Rome remained a Christian nation up until the fall.

The conservatives are right when they point out that homosexuality was accepted in ancient Rome and Greece, but they fail to mention it was also accepted in the height of Rome's power. In fact, it wasn't until just before the fall of Rome that strong prohibitions against homosexuality were put in place, again because of the establishment of Christianity.

The same is true of abortion, which was commonly practiced throughout the history of the Roman Empire, and the only prohibitions were established by Septimus Severus in the second century, again toward the end of the Empire. It should be pointed out that the restrictions made no mention of the life of the fetus, but condemned abortion because it denied the father the right to his child. Although abortion was still practiced when Rome fell, it was not any more widespread than at the height of Rome's power, so no correlation can be made between its practice and its end.

In fact, there is only minimal evidence at best to historically support the promiscuity of Romans, and this is only because there are many historical documents that slander the sexual practices of rival families. Most historians, however, believe these are political invectives used to embarrass political enemies. This is similar to rumors spread today suggesting that Hillary Clinton is a lesbian or that President Clinton is gay, which is why he pushed to allow gays in the military (yes, some people actually believe this). But the mere fact that these rumors were harmful to a family's reputation suggests that this type of behavior was unacceptable in Roman society.

So by examining Roman history, it seems that the "Roman Comparison" theory is completely unsubstantiated. In fact, by using the same faulty "I have four legs, therefore I am a cat" type logic, we could use this historical evidence to prove that it was traditional family values that caused the collapse of Rome!

But the simple fact is that abortion, homosexuality and sexual promiscuity had absolutely nothing to do with the rise or fall of Rome. Our country does face many problems, and we may fall as the Roman Empire did, but I refuse to believe it is as simple as some conservatives would make it. I don't need to look at a Roman history book to know that it takes a variety of economic and political factors to bring down an empire, not just irresponsible or immoral sex. I can't bring myself to believe that if instead of abortion, teenagers started having unwanted children, the crime rate would go down. I don't believe that what homosexuals do in the privacy of their own homes has an effect on the family unity or indirectly promotes drive-by shootings. And I certainly can't bring myself to believe that because parents had previous sex partners, that somehow encourages our children to bring guns to school, join gangs or start taking drugs. As much as I would like them to be, our problems are just not that simple.

Dylan Otto Krider, a member of the UA's "Comedy Corner," is a creative writing senior.

Feminist gets probation

■ Her essay about God's equal partner being a woman angers the Mormon leadership.

The Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — A Mormon feminist who wrote that God's equal partner in heaven is a woman was put on probation by her local church board Thursday.

In the first such case since selection of a new church president raised hopes of a truce with the faith's critics, the board could have excommunicated Janice Allred at the 8½-hour disciplinary hearing, which began Wednesday evening.

Instead, Allred said, the leaders placed her on probation while they consider other action during the next couple of weeks. No date was set for another hearing.

"My feeling is that they really didn't want to excommunicate me," she said.

In her statement to the board, Allred said: "If you punish me it will be because I refused to give up my freedom to believe, speak, and act according to my conscience. If you punish me it will be because I refused to deny my testimony of Jesus Christ."

Bishop Robert Hammond of the Edgewood Ward, who led the hearing, did not return calls requesting comment. He planned to travel to Europe on Thursday.

On probation, Allred cannot partake of the sacrament; cannot enter any Mormon temple, where certain rites are performed; and cannot preach in church. She can continue working in the church nursery.

In her essay, called "Toward a Mormon Theology of God the Mother" and published in the journal *Dialogue*, she said there is a "heavenly mother" who is God's partner in heaven.

Church leaders say the existence of a heavenly mother is a logical and reasonable doctrine, but doctrine does not say whether she is God's equal.

Increasingly, one of the standards defined by the 9 million-member church's all-male hierarchy is strict obedience to a prohibition on public contradiction or criticism of the leadership.

Since September 1993, at least seven high-profile feminists and academics have been excommunicated for apostasy or public criticism.

Allred is the first to face such action since Howard W. Hunter became the 14th president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on June 5, after the death of Ezra Taft Benson. Many Mormon intellectuals had been heartened by Hunter's words of conciliation.

The Sunday-school teacher was accused of entering the homes of friends and townspeople over a 10-year period when he knew they would be away and stealing about 1,000 valuables. According to police, Harlow once was late to a golfing foursome because he stopped off to burglarize the homes of the other golfers, and once he excused himself midway during a lunch date, allegedly dashed away to burglarize his companion's home, and returned as the main course was being served. He also allegedly stole from hospitalized friends' homes during hospital visiting hours.

THE DEVIL MADE THEM DO IT

In July, Mollie Brusstar, 48, was convicted of embezzling from the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, where she had been employed in administration. According to the prosecutor, Brusstar put imaginary employees on the rolls and issued their paychecks to herself. She and a sister went to Utah and, posing as nuns, used the money to obtain dental work and cosmetic abdomen-reduction surgery. Brusstar's defense was that a monsignor had approved everything, but he was unavailable to testify, having committed suicide in the interim after being accused of molesting a parishioner.

Measure No. 9 STATE OF OREGON

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

According to the book of **Leviticus in the Bible, oyster-eating, crossbreeding cattle, shaving a beard, wearing clothing made of mixed fibers, cursing one's parents and adultery are just as immoral as homosexuality.** If the OCA's "No Special Rights" Committee wants to take one of the 3,000-year-old laws of ritual holiness from Leviticus and put it into the Bill of Rights in the state constitution, they should be sincere enough to put all the rest of Leviticus into the constitution as well. It's a simple matter of respect for these historic laws to treat them consistently.

We at the Special Righteousness Committee are just as offended by oyster-eating, shaving and mixed fibers as the OCA is offended by homosexuality, and we have just as much right as the OCA does to change the state constitution to require government discrimination against people whose behavior we don't like.

My friends, do you want the public schools teaching your children that shaving is a legitimate and equal alternative style to a normal and healthy beard? Would you want to be forced to hire an oyster-eater to direct your church choir? Adam and Eve wore fig leaves—100 percent fig leaves—and this is divine proof that those disgustingly unnatural cotton/polyester blends are sinful. And when the OCA was analyzing the threat to traditional family values, we don't know how they managed to overlook adultery! Why, there's a lot more adultery than homosexuality going on out there, and extrapolations from OCA statistics show that 90 percent of the people who have engaged in sexual perversions are heterosexual ("straight").

The state condones adultery by not punishing it with death as required by Leviticus. It promotes oyster-eating by licensing seafood restaurants, and it allows people to take mixed fibers out of the closet and to flaunt them right out in public without being fired or evicted! The state is encouraging sin!

If the OCA can have the special right to make their personal moral agenda into public policy, then anyone else also should be able to amend the state Bill of Rights to eliminate basic human rights for people who they don't like.

Let's put ALL of Leviticus into the constitution! A "yes" vote is the first step in facilitating our militant moral agenda.

AGREE WITH US OR BURN IN HELL!

As a child I learned that in the beginning God made man and woman. Later, woman 'is birthed' from man, and she's weak. So here we are.... All of the problems in the world as we know it (and accomplishments too, and even the state of being here), are the fault of one lousy woman who was too weak to obey the only rule. Root of all evil. I wasn't taught about Adam's first wife, Lillith. Eve was number two. Lillith was banned from the garden, a symbol of the dissolution of the preexisting matriarchal societies she represented. Lillith was blamed for inciting men to masturbate (it was told their sperm would be turned into monsters by her, although the real reason was to make sure all sperm would be for reproductive reasons. thus increasing the population.) She was also blamed for any 'crib death,' hence the word for lullaby, which meant in Latin 'Lily go away.' But when, according to a professor I had in college, the many people who 'edited' the bible (way back when) cut out the parts about Lillith, they forgot to edit out Genesis 1-27, which as I recall from other versions of the bible (probably King James) said 'And god created man and woman.' My garage sale Revised Standard version, put out by the American Bible Society, says 'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.' Then later, in 2-8, the bible goes into the creation of Eve stuff, from the rib, etc. The bible was and is a political tool for crowd control. It's more than that, a wonderful piece of literature in and of itself, and it's got history and mythology. But not much that's beneficial for the actualization of women, which isn't surprising because it was partially designed to stamp out the pre-existing matriarchal belief system which had been in place. But that's a different story, easily found if one looks.

From what I've heard of the development of the Lilith myth, it was first developed by Jewish Rabbis in the first few centuries before the Common era, & added to the Midrash, which the rabbis used to explain various discrepancies in the Hebrew Canon. Most modern scholars agree that the creation story in Genesis 2 (from the theoretical "J" or "Yahwist" source) is much older than the story in Genesis 1 (from the theoretical "P" or "Priestly" source).

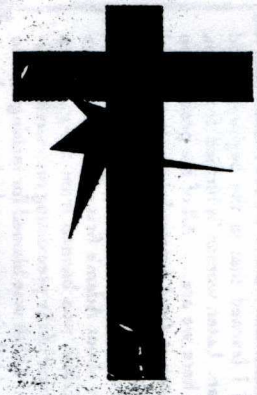
Biblical Perversion on the Religious Right

By Father Daniel Helmeniak

When the topic is homosexuality, political activism is almost always a cover for religious opinion. Deeply felt feelings don the robes of religious righteousness and masquerade as the "Word of God." The Bible becomes the supposed bottom line "reason" for opposing so-called "special rights." But this "reason" is a fiction of blind conviction. So it is with the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

Taken on its own terms, read in its own historical context, the Bible ho-hums homosexuality—unless, as with heterosexuality, injustice and abuse are involved. To use the Bible to condemn homosexuality, the religious right must depend on mistranslation, faulty interpretation, and a large dose of emotionalism. The religious right takes the Bible as if it had been written in English yesterday and reads into it late twentieth century concerns that are simply absent in the original texts. Consider some specifics.

Sodomites. Genesis 19:1-11, the story of Sodom, destroyed by fire and brimstone. What was the sin? Ezekiel 16:49 names it outright: "they had pride, excess of food and prosperous ease, and did not aid the poor and needy." No mention of sex at all! Same thing in Wisdom 19:13: "hatred toward strangers." When Jesus sent out his disciples, he told them it would be worse for a town who rejects them than it was for Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:5-15). The common link is not sex acts but rejection of divine messengers, hardheartedness, haughtiness, and meanness. It is simply mistaken to interpret Sodom as a biblical reference to homosexuality. Indeed, this approach misses the Bible's sacred teaching on kindness and encourages people to do the very things those texts condemn. In many ways the strident religious right has become today's true Sodomites.



Abomination. Leviticus 18:22: "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman: it is an abomination." But so is eating pork or shellfish, sewing two kinds of cloth into one garment, or having a menstrual flow of blood or a seminal emission. In the Hebrew Scriptures, abomination means religious taboo, ritual impurity; it does not imply inherent wrong or sin. It used to be mortal sin for Roman Catholics to eat meat on Fridays—not because eating meat is itself somehow wrong but because doing it on Fridays denied one's Catholic identity. Likewise, the good Israelite did not engage in male-male sex; that was a Canaanite thing, ugly, dirty, unclean, an abomination, very unjewish. The reason it was forbidden to the early Israelites no longer applies today—and especially not for Christians. Jesus rejected the Hebrew purity laws: sin is in the heart, not on the unwashed hand (Mark 7:1-8). The religious right makes two mistakes in decrying "abomination": they read "homosexuality" any time the Bible says "abomination," and they think abomination is always the same thing as sin, injustice, wrong. Not according to the Bible!

Unnatural. Romans 1:26-27. The Greek reads *para physin*. The early Stoic philosophers used these words to mean unnatural, but not Paul. In Romans 11:24 Paul applies these same words to God. God grafted the Gentiles into the Jewish people, a wild branch into a cultivated vine. Not your standard modus operandi. An unusual thing to do, i.e. "unnatural." For Paul the words mean "atypical," nothing more. The whole anti-gay "unnatural" hullabaloo rests on this mistranslation. There is no ethical connotation in the words Paul uses to speak of male-male sex: atypical, unseemly, dishonorable. All refer to social disapproval. Paul is talking about impurities, taboos, uncleanness. He has the ancient Jewish Law in mind. He says so outright in verse 24. The whole point of his letter is to insist, with Jesus, that impurity is irrelevant for Christians. He uses gay sex as his example, and he is indifferent to the matter: "I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself" (Romans 14:14). The religious right makes the mistake of reading their own preoccupations into Paul's terminology. They make the further mistake of uniting verses 26-27 with verses 28-32. But verse 28 changes topics. Paul is contrasting impurity with real sin. He is not identifying homosexuality, as the Fundamentalists would, with "evil, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, etc., etc." Sorry about that.

Heavenly Sex. This is one for a laugh. Jude 7 condemns sex with celestial beings. Absolutely foreign to our worldview. But then again, remember *Cocoon*? This text does mention Sodom (the visitors to Sodom were really angels in disguise), so it trips off the religious right's preoccupation with gay sex. Scholars long ago abandoned that interpretation.

Biblical matters are subtle; they require study and thought. That's too bad. Simple answers have popular appeal. Thus, the Fundamentalist bandwagon rolls on honking and blaring—down the wrong road.

For a fuller explanation in a readable text, see Father Daniel A. Helmeniak's *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality* (Alamo Square Press, 1994, 121 pages). $11.95, includes p&h, from Alamo Square Press, PO Box 14543, San Francisco, CA 94110. 415-863-7410.

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT SPIRITUAL GET ALL CAUGHT UP IN THEIR OWN FORMS OF IDOLATRY AND NEVER LEARN TO BE SPIRITUAL.

THE PERSONS WHO ARE TRYING TO BE SPIRITUAL GET SO CAUGHT UP IN THE RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF GOING TO CHURCH, THEY FORGET THAT "CHURCH" AND "RELIGION" ARE ONLY SYMBOLS FOR SPIRITUALITY.

THE OBSURDITY OF THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS CHURCH GOERS WHO BASE THEIR POMPOSITY ON MEETING ATTENDANCE RATHER THAN THEIR SPIRITUAL WELL BEING.

EVERY HOUR HERE

(words and music by Karen Peris) THE INNOCENCE MISSION

We ride our bikes
around the circle in the cemetery,
weaving.
I wave up to You on the Cross.
Am I to come upon You suddenly like this forever?
Happy, relieved that You are here
and I can see You, I can feel You?

You are like the ticket-half
I find inside the pocket of
my old leaf-raking coat.
There all the time, all the while,
forgotten.
I so often seem to leave You
in churches
and other islands.
And on my beads
where I can see You, I can feel You.

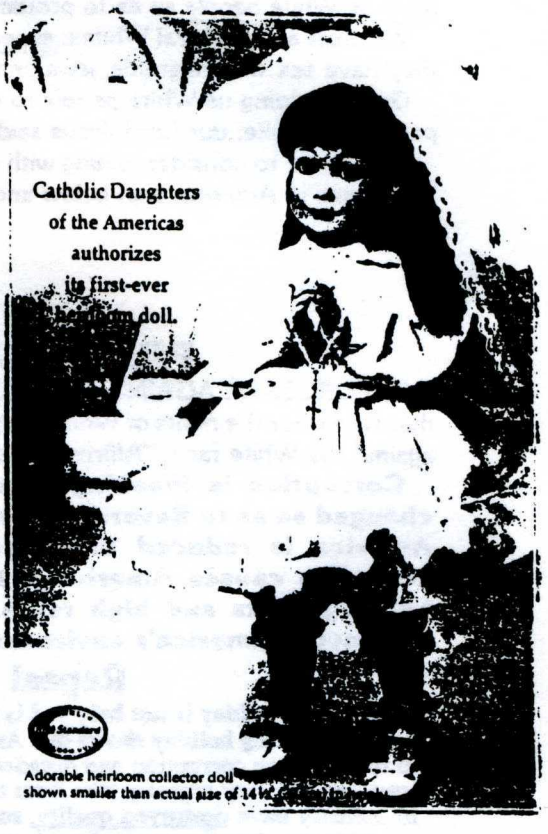
I take the ticket-half
and put it on the table, saying,
This is God
and He's here through my comings
and my goings.
But I walk past the ticket-half,
I walk past the ticket-half.
I walk past the ticket-half
just as I've walked past the Cross on our wall.

Our self-importance grows so dazzling we don't see You.
But Gentle Jesus, aren't You always,
aren't You every hour here?

I used to be a very religious person. To this day this song almost brings me to tears.

nightmare of no discourse and an inability to dislodge our critical foot from our moralistic mouth.

OUR OWN ADDICTION
TO FALSE GODS
IS SO DESPERATE
WE ARE SOMETIMES
DRIVEN
TO ROB GRAVES
AND CONSUME THE DEAD



Adorable heirloom collector doll shown smaller than actual size of 14½

Learn to recognize mindfuck.

The people marked for exploitation are not masses of troublesome, illiterate, disease-ridden peasants in underdeveloped countries who can barely sustain their own miserable lives, NO! The exploited masses are taxpaying U.S. citizens, U.S. families and ignorant church goers!!!

THIS COULD ALMOST BE FUNNY, IF IT WASNT SO PATHETIC!

White ⚡ Rights

Help This Crusade Protect Innocent White People From AIDS

PRAISE GOD FOR AIDS

God is intervening on earth with Aids to destroy His enemies and to rescue and preserve the White race. **Aids is a racial disease** of jews and negroids that also eradicates sodomites. Negroids are Aids-prone because they have the Gc 1 fast gene. White people have the Gc 2 gene which gives them relative immunity. **We White racists are now on the Winning Team! God's great racial blessing of Aids makes White victory certain and inevitable!**

Racial Separation is Necessary

Whites are mostly immune from Aids so long as they stay away from those three Aids high risk groups and their blood. Not only the Haitians, but all negroids with any amount of negro blood are high risk for Aids along with jews and sodomites. Those aids-prone groups must be SEPARATED far away from us White people so as to protect innocent White people from Aids.

We must alert all loyal Whites, especially White students, to the danger that they will die from Aids if they have sex with negroids, jews or sodomites.

God is helping us White people to win, but He wants us to be active and to serve Him and do our part. In St. Luke, our Lord Jesus said: "Occupy til I come."

If you wish to consider joining with other loyal White people to restore Freedom, White power and White rule in America, sign below and mail to:

J. B. Stoner, Leader
CRUSADE AGAINST CORRUPTION
P. O. Box 4063
Marietta, Georgia 30061

PRESERVE THE WHITE RACE

The CRUSADE AGAINST CORRUPTION is a nationwide, patriotic, White racist, political crusade that stands for the rights of White people and the repeal of all corrupt laws and policies that discriminate against the White race. "Affirmative action" is corruption. Race mixing is corruption.

Corruption in Washington and corrupt immigration laws must be purged and changed so as to Reverse the jew-sponsored 3rd world immigration Invasion before America is reduced to poverty forever. Colored immigration from backward countries causes Americans to become Homeless and impoverished by inflated housing costs and high rents. 3rd world immigration is crowding America and destroying America's environment.

Repeal Disgraceful King Holiday

The King holiday is not holy and is an insult to the White founders of this country and to decency. The anti-White King holiday shows that America has decayed and rotted out from the inside. Help this Crusade to reverse such corruption and decadence by abolishing the King holiday and by repealing the civil rights laws because they unjustly take from the Whites and give to the blacks. Civil rights laws and race-mixing in industry have destroyed quality, such as in the automobile industry. America cannot have quality and negroids too. America cannot have law and order and negroids too.

Our Crusade stands for:

- JESUS CHRIST
- A Free White America
- NO World Government
- Expulsion of All communists
- Outlawing Interracial Marriage
- Complete Racial Separation
- Right of Whites to Bear Arms
- Preservation of the White Race
- Job Rights for Whites
- Only White Christian Immigration
- An America First Foreign Policy
- America First Trade Policies

If you are a loyal White person, for more Information, place name, etc. below and mail to this Crusade at the above address. Also, send donation so we can reach & wake up more White people with free literature distribution.

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Please Make Many Copies and Distribute.

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On Sunday night, March 5, David and Bryan Freeman decided it was time to act. Time to act on the new beliefs they had learned. Time to prove to their new friends that they were real soldiers of "RaHoWa" the racial holy war they had been told was coming.

On that Sunday night, hate came to the Freeman house. The boys, age 15 and 17, ambushed their mother in the downstairs hallway, stabbing and clubbing her repeatedly until she died. Then they went upstairs and did the same to their dad while he lay in his bed. Little brother Erik, 11, was asleep when the older brothers entered his room and, in the words of a police affidavit, "he was bludgeoned unrecognizable in his bed".

Cousin Nelson Birdwell reportedly sat in the kitchen waiting while Bryan and David slaughtered their family. Then the 3 boys took off to "join the white revolution". They stayed one night at a motel in Ohio and called a neo-nazi "comrade" August Hesse, 24, in Hope, Michigan. They travelled to Hope and were captured by police there the next day. Hesse, who already had charges pending for ethnic intimidation and obstructing police, was also arrested. Midland (Mich.) County Prosecutor Norman Donker said Hesse was not believed to be involved in the slayings, but might have "some connection to the politics of the Defendants".

TEACHING KIDS TO KILL

Dennis and Brenda Freeman could see disaster coming. Family relationships were strained. David and Bryan fought with their mom and dad often, and began to stay away from home more. Up to this point, the Freeman family was much like thousands of others.

But something changed. These boys met Mark Thomas and the Aryan Nations. They began to learn that it was o.k. to hate.

Mark Thomas is a long-time fascist organizer in eastern Pennsylvania. Previously connected to the Ku Klux Klan and the "Christian Posse Comitatus" he is now working for Aryan Nations of Pennsylvania. About a mile off Walker Road in Seisholtzville, Pa., the 44-year-old Thomas operates a ministry for racists. At the compound he teaches weapons skills on a rifle range and last April he hosted a weekend Hitler Youth Festival that attracted 200 kids.

The "reverend" Thomas teaches a twisted religious doctrine there known as Christian Identity, which says that anyone who disagrees with white supremacy is a traitor who must be destroyed. Thomas has admitted since the killings that David and Bryan Freeman attended activities at the Aryan Nations complex. About one such gathering last October, Thomas says "There was a bonfire. There were marshmallows. It was a family kind of thing".

Mark Thomas' "family values" rhetoric is ironic. A teenager who spent a lot of time there gave a much different description to the local human relations commission in January. He described an atmosphere of paranoia and intimidation at the compound. A nazi flag hangs in a makeshift chapel inside an old trailer on the grounds. Food is stockpiled in the basement of the main house in preparation for a "racial holy war". A bus is buried on the land as a bomb shelter. Skinheads and other teenagers are welcome.

Hanging around the Aryan Nations was changing David and Bryan Freeman. When the boys shaved their heads and started spouting neo-nazi slogans, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman did what they thought was right. They sought counseling. They institutionalized their sons. They called the Center for Democratic Renewal and similar anti-racist groups.

Nothing worked. The boys began sneaking out, attending other nazi meetings in New Jersey and Michigan. Last December, Bryan showed up with a tattoo on his neck of a swastika made from human bones. In February, he added "Berzerker" on his forehead. David had "Sieg Heil" etched above his eyebrows.

The Thursday before the murders, Bryan was suspended from school for filling a test with racist slogans and drawings. The next day, in a lunchroom confrontation with Principal Michael Platt, Bryan snarled "Shut up or I'll throw you in the oven, you kike".

"In the conversation I had with Mrs. Freeman the entire focus was `help for my kids', it was not help for Brenda Freeman" said one counselor who spoke on condition of anonymity. "It's almost incomprehensible that somebody would do something this horrendous", said Salisbury Twp. police officer Bill Updegrove. "What makes it harder to accept is they killed the person that gave them life". Said Floyd Cochran, former Aryan Nations organizer who now works against racism, "These were emotionally disturbed kids. They were the kind of kids I used to recruit".

The brothers are charged with three counts each of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. They will either be executed by the government or kept in a cage until they die. Their family is gone forever. Cousin Nelson Birdwell, charged with accessory to murder, is being held on $150,000.00 bail.

Unfortunately, "the reverend" Mark Thomas remains at large.

Wentworth Family Values

by Anne Bower

While growing up, many of us were warned by our parents, "People in glass houses, shouldn't throw stones"--a good maxim to live by. However, sworn testimony concerning the family life of admitted acid bomber Michelle Campbell is not rumor and bears review.

At 18, Ms. Campbell has two children, no husband, faces sentencing on the clinic attacks, and has numerous other charges pending, including selling drugs. Her brief life has been filled with criminal behavior and a seriously disturbed home environment worthy of a Faulkner novel.

The whereabouts of the natural father of Michelle and her brother, Tony, were never discussed on the stand. What came out was, when Michelle was 8 and Tony 12, their mother, then 31, married an 18 year old, Timothy Wentworth. The installation of this teenage boy as a "father figure" did not go down well.

Michelle had always been a handful. At 6, while playing with a lighter, she set fire to the upstairs of the family home, causing extensive damage. But according to trial testimony, life got much worse after Tim arrived. Michelle's relationship with her mother, always rocky, deteriorated. Michelle was smoking at 8 and began a career of shoplifting. The mother seemed to have little idea how to control her daughter.

The next few years were very stormy. At one point, Michelle accused Tim of sexually abusing her. There were physical confrontations between those two and the mother had her son, Tony, arrested on one occasion for attacking Tim with a hammer because Tim was beating on Michelle. As late as last Fall, Mrs. Wentworth separated from her husband for a month and a half because he was, again, beating on Michelle.

Yet, Mrs. Wentworth, an anti-abortion activist for 21 years, and head of the Auburn Right-to-Life, spent a great deal of her free time, protesting, picketing, and "rescuing." She claimed to be at the first formal OR rescue in Cherry Hill, NJ in 1987 and was present at other rescues, including *The Spring of Life* in Buffalo in 1992. Like her friend, John Arena, she was a member of the Lambs of Christ. Her most recent arrest was last November outside of Dr. Yoffa's office.

While her mother was out protesting, Michelle was continuing a life of petty crime. She became pregnant at 15 and dropped out of High School because of her embarrassment. Mrs. Wentworth, aided by a family friend, persuaded Michelle to keep her baby. Mrs. Wentworth's ali in convincing Michelle not to have an abortion was Mike Campbell, a 19 year old who liked Michelle. Mrs. Wentworth liked Mike so much, she let him move into her home after the baby was born. Eventually, Mike got Michelle pregnant and, once again, she was convinced to keep the baby. This time, Michelle and Mike married and moved out. At 17, Michelle was a wife and mother of two little boys.

In short order, the marriage fell apart, and Michelle abandoned her children to her mother's care in August of last year. Mrs. Wentworth had promised if Michelle had her babies, she would take care of them and her daughter took up her up on the offer. For a while, Michelle lived on her own, but when she was thrown out of her apartment for loud parties she had nowhere to go but back to her mother and Tim's house.

For years, Mrs. Wentworth, not a well woman, supported her family by working 12 shifts as a home health aid 6 or 7 days a week. The question of why Mr. Wentworth, who appeared healthy, was not working, too, was finally answered when it came out on the stand that he had pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a 10 year old boy and served time in prison. This admission led credence to Michelle Campbell's assertions that Tim had molested her.

The Wentworth home life has produced a profoundly troubled young woman who has never learned right from wrong, self control, or personal responsibility. Even though Michelle Campbell has two children, she is still just a child herself. She is currently employed at her brother's pizza parlor in a near-by town, but with all the charges she is facing, it looks as if Michelle will have prison in her near future.

Whether prison will help Michelle get her life together is anyone's guess. As for her mother, she is clearly reaping what she sowed. The acid attacks were a felony--not a misdemeanor as she told her daughter. The delusional world of the anti-abortion zealot can ignore truth just so long.

Mrs. Wentworth faces up to 7 years in prison for her part in this episode. It is easy to hope she spends time in jail. She earned it. But the thought of Michelle Campbell's two little sons left with only Mr. Wentworth to care for them, leaves a knot in the stomach.

So often, during anti-abortion protests, clinic staff, escorts, and patients have said to the protestors, why don't you go mind your own business? Get a life! With a home life like the Wentworth's, interfering in someone else's troubles was apparently easier than trying to deal with their own.

Publishing: *the Body Politic* is published 11 times a year from January to a Nov/Dec issue. The August issue contains a current directory of New York State and National Pro-Choice Organizations.

The publisher is:
the Body Politic Inc.
PO Box 2363
Binghamton, NY 13902
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Valerie Finkelman, associate editor

ISSN 1065-3902

Subscriptions: One year is $18.00 ($25.00 in Canada). Single issue, postpaid, $4.00 ($4.50 in Canada).

Articles: Material in *the Body Politic* is copyrighted, but in the interest of communication and networking, articles may be reprinted, provided full citation is given.

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the Body Politic Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations are tax-deductable.

the Body Politic, is printed by *Our Press* in Chenango Bridge, NY.

According to a report released by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and a press statement issued by Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), militias are active in at least 13 and possibly as many as 30 states, incorporating into their leadership and para-military ranks open racists and anti-semites, with a program targeting the federal government, internationalism, and gun control. In many cases, these militias are making common cause with anti-environmental "wise use" groups and anti-abortion Christian rightists.

Another area of fear is the possibility of violence. In North Carolina, the leader of Citizens for the Reinstatement of Constitutional Government, Albert Esposito, urges his members to amass caches of the "Four B's: Bibles, bullets, beans and bandages." Many members, the report states, own semiautomatic weapons, including AR-15's and AK-47's.

A rising star in the movement is Linda Thompson, an Indiana lawyer.

Thompson was arrested this summer for blocking a busload of supporters of President Clinton's health care plan. At the time police found her she was carrying two pistols and had an assault weapon in her vehicle with 295 rounds of ammunition.

De Armond also notes ties between the Christian Right and the militias. Bo Gritz, for example, has built his SPIKE apparatus through Christian Identity contacts and through his participation in a series of "Preparedness Expositions" held around the country in late summer and early fall. These expositions also provided a forum for Larry Pratt and the Aryan Nations-influenced Militia Of Montana.

A US Taxpayers Party convention in Wisconsin featured a presentation by Christian Right militia leader and anti-abortion activist Matthew Trewhella. (See related story in this issue on Missionaries to the Preborn. -ed.) "The murders at the Ladies' Center in Pensacola, Florida started a federal investigation of the militias that will probably continue for several years. The murders also marginalized the militia groups that focussed on opposition to abortion rights," says de Armond. Several counties in the Florida panhandle area where the anti-abortion killings took place have voted to authorize the formation of militias.

Former Populist Party presidential candidate James "Bo" Gritz appears to be settling into his 'covenant community' in the northern panhandle of Idaho. Gritz and his associates have purchased a total of nearly 500 acres in the rural and rugged countryside. Jonathan Mozzochi, Director of the Portland, OR-based Coalition for Human Dignity, warned this week that Gritz's move was "the most significant development in the white supremacist movement in the Pacific Northwest in years." He called Gritz's "covenant community' a "haven for anti-government extremists and bigots."

In Noxon MT, brothers John and David Trochman have been organizing a militia unit by attending gun shows and selling video and audio tapes. Human rights activists in Montana say the Trochmans are members of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nation and that other anti-semitic and racist Christian fundamentalist groups are aligned with the militia.

Norm Olson made frequent references to God as the ultimate authority sanctioning the militia's actions, and his chaplain spoke at length to the crowd, saying at one point that he believed there were "spirits" present at the event — a seeming reference to patriots and revolutionaries of the past; leaders of the militia see their movement as being of truly historic importance, comparable to the original American revolution. (Prior to this morning's demo, I had spent a couple of days in Northern Michigan, where I talked to Olson for three hours and was subsequently invited to the church where he is the pastor.)

Conspiracy theorists will be disappointed (or skeptical) to hear that there were no agents provocateurs visible at this morning's demo, and by my estimation, Commander Olson and his officers seem uncorrupt and free of ulterior motives. They clearly believe in family values as espoused by Pat Buchanan, but they are attempting to build a movement which is open and non-partisan (they refuse to endorse political candidates).

A recent diatribe by Pat Robertson gives the flavor of the culture of victimization in full flower: "We need $20 a month from every viewer, which is paramount in stopping this repeat of history! Just like what Nazi Germany did to the Jews, so liberal America is now doing to the evangelical Christians! ... It is the Democratic Congress, the liberal-biased media and the homosexuals who want to destroy all Christians! Wholesale abuse and discrimination and the worst bigotry directed toward any group in America today! More terrible than anything suffered by any minority in our history!" (Brother Robertson has clearly not been reading up on slavery in America or the Indian wars lately.)

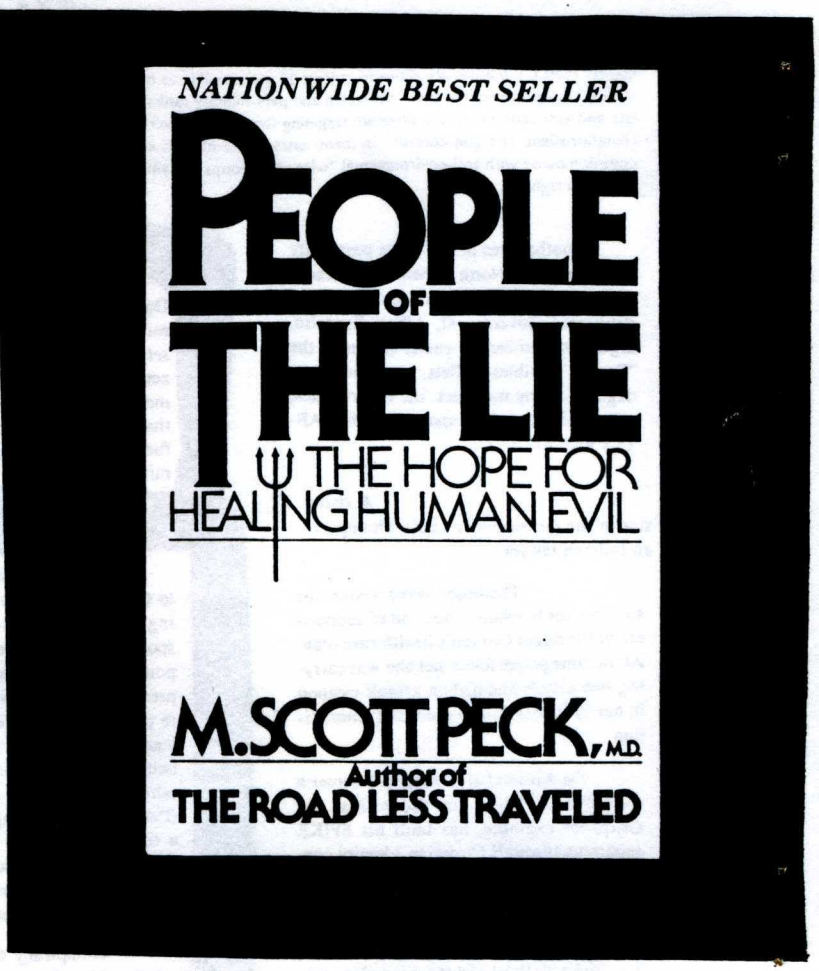
"And it is happening here and now! Same thing, but directed against Christians by the liberal government and media! Send money today or these liberals will be putting Christians like you and me in concentration camps!"

Talk about your paranoidal delusions of martyrdom, comparing themselves as Christians to the Nazi persecution of the Jews?! Talk about playing on people's insecurities.....

After sentence was pronounced, Missouri talk-show producer Regina Dinwiddie, a signer of Mr. Hill's Defensive Action manifesto shouted, "This man is innocent and his blood will be on your hands..." Harvey Felisone of Queens, NY, another Defensive Action signatory, said that Hill's sentence would inspire some pro-lifers to use "truck bombs" and "surface-to-surface missiles" to attack clinics.

PROBABLY LOVE HAS TOTALLY DISAPPEARED FROM THIS WORLD LOVE IMPLIES GENEROSITY AND CARE, NOT TO HURT ANOTHER, NOT TO MAKE ANOTHER FEEL GUILTY, BUT TO BE GENEROUS, COURTEOUS, AND BEHAVE IN SUCH A MANNER THAT YOUR WORDS AND THOUGHTS ARE BORN OUT OF COMPASSION. ...EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD AS IT EXISTS NOW, THE SOCIETY, THE FAMILY, THE PARENTS, THE CHILDREN—THEY HAVE NO LOVE. DO YOU THINK THERE WOULD BE WARS IF THEY HAD LOVE? DO YOU THINK THERE WOULD BE GOVERNMENTS THAT CONSIDER IT PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE KILLED? SUCH A SOCIETY WOULD NEVER EXIST IF YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER REALLY LOVED YOU, CARED FOR YOU, LOOKED AFTER YOU AND TAUGHT YOU HOW TO BE KIND TO PEOPLE, HOW TO LIVE AND HOW TO LOVE
—KRISHNAMURTI—

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK "PEOPLE OF THE LIE." THIS BOOK EXPLAINS HOW PEOPLE SUCH AS MILITANT ANTI-ABORTIONISTS CAN HONESTLY BELIEVE THEIR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH LOVE FOR "GODS BABYS" WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY GUNNING DOWN ABORTION PROVIDERS



READ THIS BOOK

Specialization contributes to the immaturity of groups and their potential for evil through several different mechanisms. For the moment I will restrict myself to the consideration of only one such mechanism: the fragmentation of conscience. If at the time of MyLai, wandering through the halls of the Pentagon, I stopped to talk with the men responsible for directing the manufacture of napalm and its transportation to Vietnam in the form of bombs, and if I questioned these men about the morality of the war and hence the morality of what they were engaged in, this is the kind of reply I invariably received: "Oh, we appreciate your concerns, yes, we do, but I'm afraid you've come to the wrong people. We're not the department you want. This is the ordnance branch. We just supply the weapons—we don't determine how and where they're used. That's policy. What you want to do is talk to the policy people down the hall." And if I followed this suggestion and expressed the same concerns in the policy branch, this was the response: "Oh, we understand that there are broad issues involved, but I'm afraid they're beyond our purview. We simply determine how the war will be conducted—not whether it will be conducted. You see, the military is only an agency of the executive branch. The military does only what it's told to do. These broad issues are decided at the White House level, not here. That's where you need to take your concerns." So it went.

Whenever the roles of individuals within a group become specialized, it becomes both possible and easy for the individual to pass the moral buck to some other part of the group. In this way, not only does the individual forsake his conscience but the conscience of the group as a whole can become so fragmented and diluted as to be nonexistent. We will see this fragmentation again and again, one way or another, in the discussion that follows. The plain fact of the matter is that any group will remain inevitably potentially conscienceless and evil until such time as each and every individual holds himself or herself directly responsible for the behavior of the whole group—the organism—of which he or she is a part. We have not yet begun to arrive at that point.

I suspect that many of them did not even consider what they had done a crime. They did not confess because they did not realize they had anything to confess. Some undoubtedly hid their guilt. But others, I suspect, had no guilt to hide.

How can this be? How can a sane man commit murder and not know he has murdered? How is it that a person who is not basically evil may participate in monstrous evil without the awareness of what he has done? It is this question that will serve as a focal point for the discussion that follows on the relationship between individual and group evil.

THE INDIVIDUAL UNDER STRESS

When I was sixteen I had all four wisdom teeth removed during my spring vacation. For the next five days not only did my jaw hurt but it was swollen shut. I could eat no solid food—only liquids or spiceless baby food. The fetid taste of blood was constantly in my mouth. By the end of those five days my level of psychic functioning had been reduced to that of a three-year-old. I had become utterly self-centered. I was whiny and irritable with others. I expected them to be in constant attendance upon me. When some little thing did not go exactly the way I wanted it precisely when I wanted it, tears came to my eyes and my displeasure was mighty.

I believe that anyone who has been in significant chronic pain or discomfort—say, for a week or so—will recognize the experience I have just described. In a situation of prolonged discomfort we humans naturally, almost inevitably, tend to regress. Our psychological growth reverses itself; our maturity is forsaken. Quite rapidly we become more childish, more primitive. Discomfort is stress. What I am describing is a natural tendency of the human organism to regress in response to chronic stress.

The life of a soldier in a combat zone is one of chronic stress.

Besides regression, there is another mechanism whereby human beings respond to stress. It is a mechanism of defense. Robert Jay Lifton, who studied the survivors of Hiroshima and other disasters, has called it "psychic numbing." In a situation in which our emotional feelings are overwhelmingly painful or unpleasant, we have the capacity to anesthetize ourselves. It is a simple sort of thing. The sight of a single bloody, mangled body horrifies us. But if we see such bodies all around us every day, day after day, the horrible becomes normal and we lose our sense of horror. We simply tune it out. Our capacity for horror becomes blunted. We no longer truly *see* the blood or *smell* the stench or *feel* its agony. Unconsciously we have become anesthetized.

This capacity for emotional self-anesthesia obviously has its advantages. Undoubtedly it has been built into us through evolution and enhances our ability to survive. It allows us to continue to function in situations so ghastly we would fall apart if we preserved our normal sensitivity. The problem, however, is that this self-anesthetizing mechanism seems not to be very specific. If because we live in the midst of garbage our sensitivity to ugliness becomes diminished, it is likely that we will become litterers and garbage-strewers ourselves. Insensitive to our own suffering, we tend to become insensitive to the suffering of others. Treated with indignity, we lose not only the sense of our own dignity but also the sense of the dignity of others. When it no longer bothers us to see mangled bodies, it will no longer bother us to mangle them ourselves. It is difficult indeed to selectively close our eyes to a certain type of brutality without closing them to all brutality. How can we render ourselves insensitive to brutality except by becoming brutes?

We may think of evil, then, as a kind of immaturity. Immature humans are more prone to evil than mature ones. We are impressed not only by the innocence but also by the cruelty of children. An adult who delights in picking the wings off flies is correctly deemed sadistic and suspected to be evil. A child of four who does this may be admonished but is considered merely curious;

Having considered the relationship between evil and stress, it is appropriate to comment on the relationship between goodness and stress. He who behaves nobly in easy times—a fair-weather friend, so to speak—may not be so noble when the chips are down. Stress is the test for goodness. The truly good are they who in time of stress do not desert their integrity, their maturity, their sensitivity. Nobility might be defined as the capacity not to regress in response to degradation, not to become blunted in the face of pain, to tolerate the agonizing and remain intact. As I have said elsewhere, "one measure—and perhaps the best measure —of a person's greatness is the capacity for suffering."

GROUP DYNAMICS: DEPENDENCY AND NARCISSISM

Individuals not only routinely regress in times of stress, they also regress in group settings. If you do not believe this, watch a Lions Club meeting or a college reunion. One aspect of this regression is the phenomenon of dependency on the leader. It is quite remarkable. Assemble any small group of strangers—say a dozen or so—and almost the very first thing that happens is that one or two of them rapidly assume the role of group leader. It does not happen by a rational process of conscious election; it just happens naturally—spontaneously and unconsciously. Why does it happen so quickly and easily? One reason, of course, is that some individuals are either more fit to lead than others or else desire to lead more than the rest. But the more basic reason is the converse: most people would rather be followers. More than anything else, it is probably a matter of laziness. It is simply easy to follow, and much easier to be a follower than a leader. There is no need to agonize over complex decisions, plan ahead, exercise initiative, risk unpopularity, or exert much courage.

The problem is that the role of follower is the role of child. The individual adult as individual is master of his own ship, director of his destiny. But when he assumes the role of follower he hands over to the leader his power: his authority over himself and his maturity as decision-maker. He becomes psychologically dependent on the leader as a child is dependent on its parents. In this way there is a profound tendency for the average individual to emotionally regress as soon as he becomes a group member.

Indeed, for its purpose the military has developed and fostered a style of group leadership that is essentially the opposite of a therapy group. It is an old maxim that soldiers are not supposed to think. Leaders are not elected from within the group but are designated from above and deliberately cloaked in the symbols of authority. Obedience is the number-one military discipline. The dependency of the soldier on his leader is not simply encouraged, it is mandated.*

* Even civilians will commit evil with remarkable ease under obedience. As David Myers described in his excellent article "A Psychology of Evil" (*The Other Side* [April 1982], p. 29): "The clearest example is Stanley Milgram's obedience experiments. Faced with an imposing, close-at-hand commander, sixty-five percent of his adult subjects fully obeyed instructions. On command, they would deliver what appeared to be traumatizing electric shocks to a screaming innocent victim in an adjacent room. These were regular people—a mix of blue-collar, white-collar and professional men. They despised their task. Yet obedience took precedence over their own moral sense."

By nature of its mission the military designedly and probably realistically fosters the naturally occurring regressive dependency of individuals within its groups.

patterns of group behavior are remarkably similar to the behavior of an individual. This is because a group is an organism. It tends to function as a single entity. A group of individuals behave as a unit because of what is called group cohesiveness. There are profound forces at work within a group to keep its individual members together and in line. When these forces to cohesiveness fail, the group begins to disintegrate and ceases to be a group.

Probably the most powerful of these group cohesive forces is narcissism. In its simplest and most benign form, this is manifested in group pride. As the members feel proud of their group, so the group feels proud of itself. Once again, the military deliberately does more than most organizations to foster pride within its groups. It does so through a variety of means, such as developing group insignia—unit standard flags, shoulder patches, even special uniform deviations such as the green berets—and encouraging group competition, ranging from intramural sports to the comparison of unit body counts. It is no accident that the common term for group pride is a military one: esprit de corps.

A less benign but practically universal form of group narcissism is what might be called "enemy creation," or hatred of the "out-group." We can see this naturally occurring in children as they first learn to develop groups.* The groups become cliques. Those who do not belong to the group (the club or clique) are despised as being inferior or evil or both. If a group does not already have an enemy, it will most likely create one in short order. Task Force Barker, of course, had a predesignated enemy: the Viet Cong. But the Viet Cong were largely indigenous to the South Vietnamese people, from whom they were often impossible to distinguish. Almost inevitably the specified enemy was generalized to include all Vietnamese, so that the average American soldier did not just hate the Viet Cong, he hated "Gooks" in general.

It is almost common knowledge that the best way to cement group cohesiveness is to ferment the group's hatred of an external enemy. Deficiencies within the group can be easily and painlessly overlooked by focusing attention on the deficiencies or "sins" of the out-group. Thus the Germans under Hitler could ignore their domestic problems by scapegoating the Jews. And when American troops were failing to fight effectively in New Guinea in World War II, the command improved their esprit de corps by showing them movies of Japanese committing atrocious acts. But this use of narcissism—whether unconscious or deliberate—is potentially evil. We have extensively examined the ways in which evil individuals will flee self-examination and guilt by blaming and attempting to destroy whatever or whoever highlights their deficiencies. Now we see that the same malignant narcissistic behavior comes naturally to groups.

From this it should be obvious that the failing group is the one likely to behave most evilly. Failure wounds our pride, and it is the wounded animal who is vicious. In the healthy organism failure will be a stimulus to self-examination and criticism. But since the evil individual cannot tolerate self-criticism, it is in time of failure that he or she will inevitably lash out one way or another. And so it is with groups. Group failure and the stimulation of group self-criticism act to damage group pride and cohesiveness. Group leaders in all places and ages have therefore routinely bolstered group cohesiveness in times of failure by whipping the group's hatred for foreigners or the "enemy."

the specialized group inevitably develops a group character that is self-reinforcing. Second, specialized groups are therefore particularly prone to narcissism—that is, to experiencing themselves as uniquely right and superior in relation to other homogeneous groups. Finally, the society at large—partly through the self-selection process described—employs specific types of people to perform its specialized roles—as, for instance, it employs aggressive, conventional men to perform its police functions.

Is it realistic to encourage and manipulate human beings into specialized groups and simultaneously expect them, without any significant training, to maintain a breadth of vision much beyond their specialty?

We humans are so constituted that we need a sense of our own social significance. Nothing can give us more pleasure than the sense that we are wanted and useful. Conversely, nothing is more productive of despair than a sense that we are useless and unwanted. In a time of sustained peace the military man is disregarded—at best considered by his country as a necessary evil, and more often as a rather pathetic parasite on the body politic. In time of war, however, he suddenly becomes needed again, filling a role not only regarded as useful but absolutely essential by his society. The drudge becomes the hero.

Let us remember what so many theologians have said: Evil is the inevitable concomitant of free will, the price we pay for our unique human power of choice. Since ours is the power to choose, we are free to choose wisely or stupidly, to choose well or badly, to choose for evil or for good. Since we have this enormous—almost incredible—freedom, it is no wonder that we so often abuse it and that human behavior, in comparison to that of the "lower" animals, so often seems to get out of whack. Many animals may kill to protect their territory. But only a human could direct mass killing of his own species so as to protect his "interests" in a far distant land he has never set eyes upon.

So our human killing is a matter of choice. In order to survive, we cannot not kill. But we can choose how, when, where, and what we will kill. The moral complexities of such choices are enormous and often quite paradoxical. A person may become a vegetarian as an ethical choice in order to refrain from even the indirect responsibility for killing, yet to survive, he or she must still bear the responsibility for hacking living plants off at the roots and roasting the corpses thereof in ovens. Should the vegetarian, one wonders, eat eggs (the potentially unborn children of beautiful birds) or drink milk (taken from cows whose calves have been slaughtered for veal)? Then there are such matters as the issue of abortion. Does a woman have the right to bear to full viability an infant whom she neither wants nor has the capacity to care for? But does she have the right to kill that same potentially holy fetus? Is it not strange that many pacifists are advocates of abortion? Or that those who would seek to deprive others of their choice to abort on the grounds that life is sacred are so often those who champion capital punishment? And for that matter, what ethical sense does it make to kill a murderer as an example to convince others that killing is morally wrong?

Complex though the ethics of our choices to kill or not to kill may be, there is clearly one factor that contributes to unnecessary and obviously immoral killing: narcissism. Once again, narcissism. One manifestation of our narcissism is that we are far more likely to kill that which is different from us than that which resembles us. The vegetarian feels guilty killing other animal life forms but not plant life forms. There are specialized vegetarians who will eat fish but not meat; others who will eat chicken but not mammalian flesh. There are fishermen who abhor the idea of hunting and hunters who shoot birds but would shudder at killing a deer with its all-too-human eyes. The same principle applies when humans kill other humans. Those of us who are Caucasians seem to have fewer compunctions about killing blacks or Indians or Orientals than we do in killing our fellow white men. It's easier for a white man to lynch a "nigger" than a "redneck." I also suspect it's probably easier for an Oriental to kill a Caucasian than a fellow Oriental. But I do not know for sure. The matter of the racial aspects of intraspecies killing is yet another one deserving significant scientific investigation.*

I used to ask the troops on their way to battle in Vietnam what they knew about the war and its relationship to Vietnamese history. The enlisted men knew nothing. Ninety percent of the junior officers knew nothing. What little the senior officers and few junior officers did know was generally solely what they had been taught in the highly biased programs of their military schools. It was astounding. At least 95 percent of the men going off to risk their very lives did not even have the slightest knowledge of what the war was about. I also talked to Department of Defense civilians who directed the war and discovered a similar atrocious ignorance of Vietnamese history. The fact of the matter is that as a nation we did not even know why we were waging the war.

How could this have been? How could a whole people have gone to war not knowing why? The answer is simple. As a people we were too lazy to learn and too arrogant to think we needed to learn. We felt that whatever way we happened to perceive things was the right way without any further study. And that whatever we did was the right thing to do without reflection. We were so wrong because we never seriously considered that we might not be right. With our laziness and narcissism feeding each other, we marched off to impose our will on the Vietnamese people by bloodshed with practically no idea of what was involved. Only when we—the mightiest nation on earth—consistently suffered defeat at the hands of the Vietnamese did we in significant numbers begin to take the trouble to learn what we had done.

So it is that our "Christian" nation became a nation of villains. So it has been with other nations in the past, and so it will be with other nations—including our own once again—in the future. As a nation and as a race, we shall not be immune to war until such a time as we have made much further progress toward eradicating from our human nature the twin progenitors of evil: laziness and narcissism.

In the fall of 1993, a 13-year-old girl named Sapnahar was raped in Dhamsa, Bangladesh. The village *salish*, or council of elders, exonerated the alleged rapist because four adult male Muslims did not witness the crime, as required for prosecution under Islamic law. Sapnahar became pregnant, which the elders took as evidence of illicit sexual intercourse. She was pronounced guilty and sentenced to be publicly flogged 101 times, 40 days after giving birth in June, 1994. Following protest by the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, a women's group which gave Sapnahar safe haven, the Inspector General of Police was ordered to undertake an investigation.

Over the past several years in Bangladesh, village *salish* have sentenced people to public flogging or even death by stoning, although they have no legal authority to do so. The *salish* are led by local clerics who apply Islamic law in violation of the Bangladesh penal code. Defendants before salish have almost always been women who do not conform to socially accepted behavior patterns. The government has taken little action to stop the abuse.

Please write to Mirza Gholam Hafiz, Minister of Law and Justice, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Express concern that the Government of Bangladesh has not taken adequate measures to safeguard the rights of women and girls such as Sapnahar who have been targeted by village *salish*. Demand that Sapnahar's case be investigated swiftly and that appropriate action be taken to demonstrate that violence against women will not be tolerated in Bangladesh.

Send copies of your letters to Equality Now, P.O. Box 20646, Columbus Circle Station, New York, NY 10023.

DECIBELLE

THE GOODBY KITTY

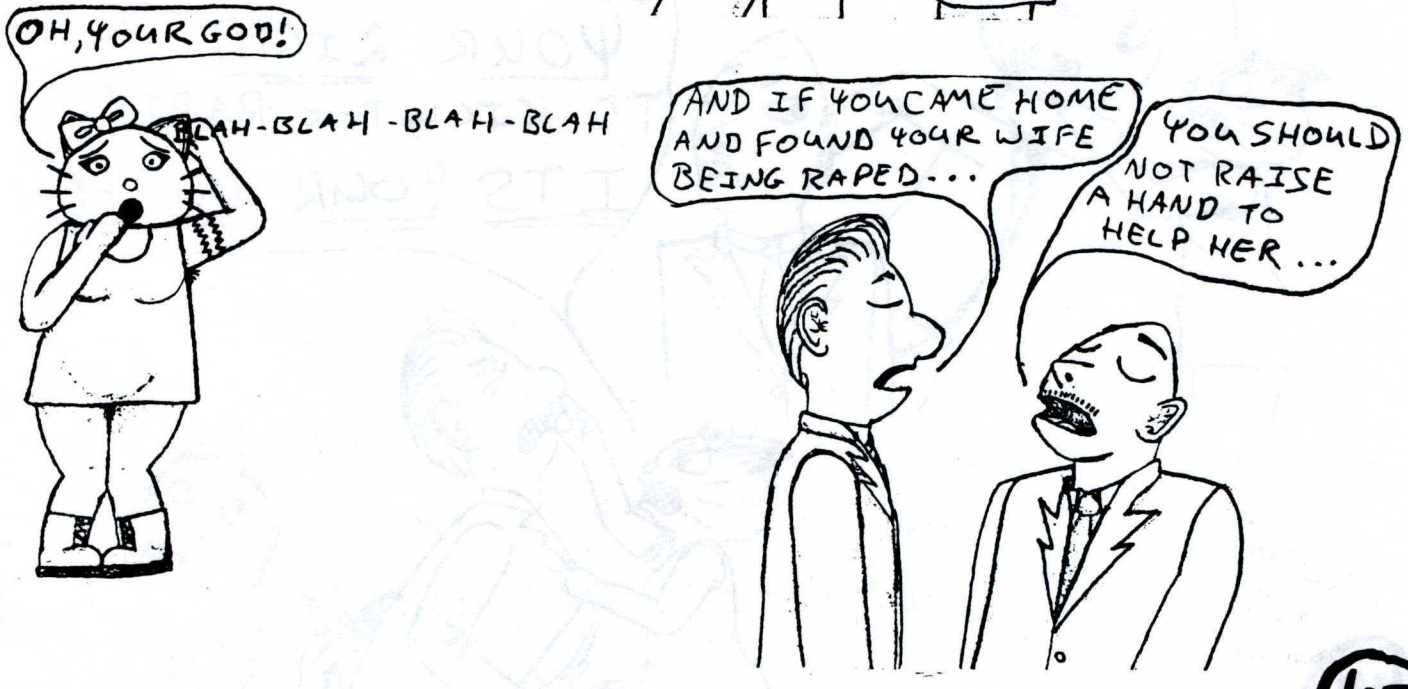
PRESENTS

A TRUE STORY OF RELIGIOUS SELF RIGHTIOUSNESS

BY SHANNON COLEBANK

ADULT CHRISTIAN MEN DISCUSSING THE DEFINITIONS OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY.
...GOD AND I BELIEVE...
...AND IN MY SELF RIGHTIOUS OPINION

THEN WHAT DID I HEAR?



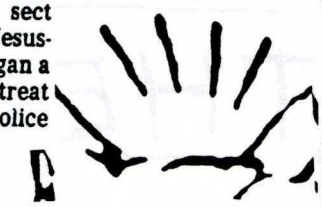
FOR IN YOUR ANGER YOU MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY USE DEADLY FORCE..
THUS COMPROMIZING YOUR POSSITION
CHRIST AND MYSELF WOULD TURN THE OTHER CHEEK...
THUS PROVING MY CHRISTIAN SUPIRIORITY
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! SHES YOUR WIFE GOD DAMNIT!!
NOT ONLY IS IT YOUR RIGHT TO KILL THE RAPIST ITS YOUR DUTY!

IF SOMEONE MOLESTED MY CHILD OR EVEN BEAT UP MY BOYFRIEND, I'D GET MY GIRL FRIENDS TOGETHER...
AND FUCK THE GUY UUUP!!
YOU IGNORANT CHRISTIANS AND YOUR PEA BRAINED POMPOSITY WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK!
KEEERHYYYST!?
END
©Shannon 95 COLEBANK

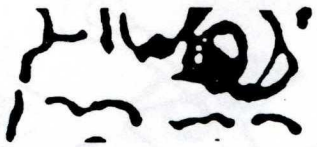
PISSED OFF

Five women belonging to a fundamentalist Christian sect in Emeryville face arraignment on murder charges for allegedly beating a young Korean woman to death during a bizarre predawn ritual to "cast out demons" they thought were inside her.

The badly battered body of Kyong-A Ha, 25, was found wrapped in an electric blanket and quilt in an upscale apartment complex Sunday, four days after a sect calling itself the Jesus-Amen Ministries began a six-hour ritual to treat her, Emeryville police said yesterday.

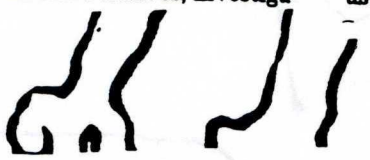


Ha, a South Korean, came to the Bay Area in late February. Her family had met sect leader Jean Park, 30, and became convinced that the self-proclaimed reverend could treat Ha's insomnia. However, Park, also known as Eun Kyong Park, told police that Ha suffered from schizophrenia.



Ha began staying with the group at a three-bedroom apartment at 6401 Bay Street, which was used as the sect's place of worship, but things apparently turned ugly fast. On February 27, Ha called her sister in Atlanta, saying, "Come get me away from these people," police said.

The concerned family phoned Park, who with the help of two followers forcibly brought Ha back to the apartment from an office on a lower floor, where she had fled to call her relatives, investigators said.



The group fasted on March 6 and 7. The next day, the group decided to hold a special prayer meeting to drive demons from Ha. During the ritual, Park and her mother, Hwa Ja Ra, 52, hit the victim 50 times each — a total of 100 times — while three other women held Ha down to keep her from fighting back, investigators said.

Ha suffered 10 broken ribs in the attack, which ended with the victim defecating on herself, police said.

"We understand that Ha did cry out very loudly and that a towel was used to muffle her screams and to prevent her from swallowing her tongue," Detective Barbara McDaniel said at a news conference yesterday.

In addition to Park and Ra, police arrested organization director Tung Mi Sin, also known as Anna Sin, 22; Natasha Baboulina, 19; and Evgeni Mogilevskaya, also known as Jenya Junya, 18. The latter two suspects are Russian immigrants studying at Patten Bible College in Oakland.

All five women were charged with murder Wednesday and are to be arraigned today in Oakland Municipal Court.

After the brutal assault, the group stayed with Ha's body and continued to hold prayer meetings in the apartment until Park notified family members in Georgia in a series of phone calls.

At first, Park asked the family to visit but later told them that Ha was "in a deep sleep" and needed to be seen immediately, McDaniel said. Ha's family called police on Sunday.

Although Park acknowledged to police that she "laid hands on Ha," she denied that she was conducting an exorcism and claimed no responsibility for the killing, McDaniel said. Instead, Park felt "the damage to Ha was done by demons" and that she was practicing "in the name of Jesus Christ" as mandated in the Bible.

Islamic girl who unveiled face is killed

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A 13-year-old girl was tortured and later died of suffocation after a fundamentalist Muslim leader ordered her beaten for uncovering her face in public, police said yesterday.

The Islamic leader, his wife and the girls' parents were in custody. They have not yet been charged.

The victim was identified as Samar Imad-Eddin Yousef, and newspapers said she died last week in a village about 70 miles north of Cairo.

The girl was ordered punished by Mohamed Aqil, the self-proclaimed "prince" of the Ancestors Group, a small fundamentalist Muslim sect. He believed she was possessed by devils, the reports said.

Aqil decided the girl was possessed after being told by her brother that she had removed her face veil on a hot day, police said.

"I gave my orders to flog her because I was fighting the devils inside her," Aqil was quoted by the secularist opposition *Al-Arab* newspaper as saying.

The girl was confined to her home for nearly a month while her mother and Aqil's wife repeatedly lashed her with a plastic hose and bit her. In the end, they suffocated her, police said.

An autopsy showed the death was caused by suffocation and that there were signs of severe wounds on the girl's back and blood in her mouth, police said.

Al-Arab newspaper quoted her mother, Fikriya, as saying she did not feel guilty about her daughter's death.

"I am a believer, and God guided me to the right path," she said.

People Who Should Have Watched More TV

A month before the murder-suicides of 53 members of the Order of the Solar Temple cult, several other members were involved in the ritual slaying of a three-month old baby that they believed to be the Antichrist. According to Canadian police, one of the cult's leaders ordered the killing of the child and its parents. Two cult members flew from Europe to Quebec to carry out the sentence, which involved driving a wooden stake through the infant's heart. They then killed the parents, tried to clean the murder scene, returned to Europe and committed suicide.

(46)

AND PROUD OF IT

A Pagan Survivor of Christian Ritual Abuse

by Claudia Neely

I am a survivor of severe sexual torture and abuse, and have spent the past three years dealing with the horrors of flashbacks, my worries about my sanity, and the slow struggle all oppressed people endure while learning to believe ourselves and our senses, and to distrust what we've been told by our oppressors. Fortunately I've had both radical feminist friends and therapists assist me in believing myself.

And it is only this year that I have begun to realize I was not only assaulted, tortured and raped, but that the constant use of Christian prayer, crosses and biblical themes were a form of ritual abuse. I, too, am a ritual abuse survivor. The neighbor who first molested and raped me told me that "God" had made me especially for his pleasure, and that he would teach me "God's plan" for me. During rapes he told me over and over that "this is what God made you for." He and later his friends tortured me to "ensure" my obedience to "God's plan," and to teach me to "love pain as part of obedience to God."

The rapists took pornographic photos of me as "advertising," so that more men could "enjoy me for God's purposes," (and my neighbor charged fees for my services). They had me wear cross necklaces and hold the bible while they put guns, knives and tools into my vagina and anus, or forced me to lick and suck the gun "for practice." They forced me to pray before rapes and beatings, to thank god for giving me to them, and for allowing them to "discipline" me. During torture and rapes (what is the difference between torture and rape anyway?) they prayed to me and held my eyes open so I could watch them "give me what God made me for." If I cried they beat me for "defying God" and at one point buried me in the ground to teach me not to cry, but to lie still and "enjoy what God made me to be."

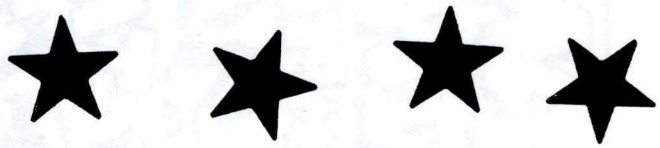
Like all children I fought to survive the incredible violence of my childhood. And I feel I am lucky, since when I was almost seven years old my dad took a new job in another state and the sexual violence of my childhood ended (though I still had many more years of physical and emotional violence to endure from both parents and an older brother). I was also lucky that my parents, though violent, were at least not Christian themselves. And I'm lucky that my family is Appalachian, so that I had my Mamaw's (mamaw is a southern Appalachian word for grandmother) folk beliefs in what she called "white" witchcraft (reflecting the racism of rural Appalachia). Though my parents disavowed folk "superstitions", I used my Mamaw's beliefs in witchcraft and spirit healing to combat the abusive Christian violence of my rapists.

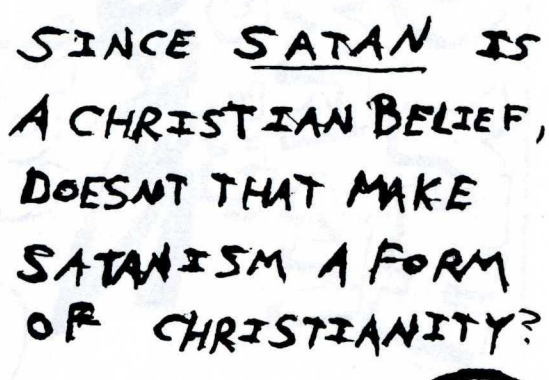
I used amnesia to forget the sexual assaults, but I spent my years in elementary school listening to my Mamaw teaching me about the spirit in all things, the uses of wild plants for tinctures and tissanes, and how to be a spiritual healer and witch. I read books on witchcraft and tried to study the spirit in things the way my Mamaw taught me. Of course years of dissociative surviving meant I had the capacity to self-hypnotize easily. I often used dissociation to "miss" years of schooling, ignore my own body, self-mutilate, but in more positive ways I learned my religion. My childhood was intensely lonely and violent, but through my Mamaw's beliefs I talked to trees and mountains and the sun and moon and stars as close and personal friends.

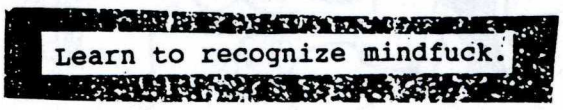
I believe there is a strong connection between faith and surviving. Surviving is an act of faith! And I believe there is a strong connection between the abuse we have all endured and the religious beliefs in this society that make God male, his incarnated son male, and the church God's bride. For me surviving childhood was possible partly through faith, but my healing as an adult has included addressing and critiquing patriarchal religious systems, Christian or Pagan (It's not that I believe in any way that Pagans are somehow not sexist).

Today as a survivor of Christian ritual abuse, I feel stuck between a rock and a hard place. I have other friends who were abused ritually by Christians, as well as friends abused ritually by Satanists. Yet the majority of writings I find about ritual abuse are about Satanic abuse only, and barely mention the possibility of Christians doing the same things. And as a Pagan I know of the potential for backlash against me and my beliefs in this oh-so Christian country due to connecting ritual abuse with non-Christians only. Then again, in no way do I want to imitate many Christians and ignore any Pagans who do ritually or otherwise abuse children and women.

And I read more and more about Christian ministries to "help" survivors of ritual abuse and I worry mightily. I know survivors friends who are now Christians, but they are feminist and informed Christians with concerns about Christian beliefs as causes of sexual violence to women and children. Do these ministries for ritual abuse survivors address sexism and homophobia in Christianity? If not, do they really help survivors?







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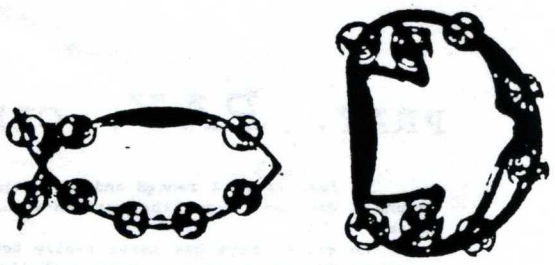
ZERO HOUR
by Pat Lee
SISTER MARIE'S
COOL! IT'S MY "EVERY DIRTY OL' MANS LIL' PLAID COVERED FANTASY DREAM"
SISTER MARIE: OH NO! IT'S MY "BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL DREAM"
YOUNG LADY THAT SKIRT IS TOO SHORT! KNEEL FOR THE UNEEHING
CHEERS YOU GOOBERS YOU DELINQUENT!
P.J. WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY NIGHTMARE?
BEATS ME! BUT LET'S SPLIT-SHES GAINING!!
CURSES!
QUICK JUMP!
BANG
ZOOM!
OOH MAN! TOO MANY FISH-STICKS FRIDAY NIGHT!
AWW, WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE IN HERE
THANK YOU!

Today in the body of Christ there has arisen a profuse, proliferation of putrid ministries whose sole function is to ingest huge quantities of perverted worldly garbage in the form of television, movies, music, books and politics, and then turn around and spew it back out on the christian world in the form of a "newsletter" or some slick magazine that reeks of wasted finances. These "sewer sloshers", as we call them, love nothing better than to slosh around in the world's cesspool, examining the contents with relish.

Why do they do it? What motivates them in their filthy antics? YOU, dear brothers and sisters, they claim they are doing it for YOU! They insist that God wants them to closely examine what the sinful, antichrist world is doing so that they can "keep us informed", for our protection of course. There are entire ministries who do nothing but review all the television programs, movies, music and the political scene for the sole purpose of telling you and me how bad it all is.

And on top of such nonsense, they actually have the nerve to ask for financial support from honest people who work hard for a living. Can you believe it, they want you to pay them to slosh in the sewer! We have deep problems today among those who claim the name of Christ. These reverends, ministers and doctors want the rest of the christian world to finance their voyeurism, and they feel totally justified in doing this, because after they have spent hours of God's time feasting on the filth of the world, they regurgitate it back up mixed with lots of religious cliches and a few scriptures, rush it to the printer and then mail it directly to your door so you can be "informed".



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Jack Kevorkian's paintings

More striking are the two representing the commercialization of religious holidays as they are celebrated in Western civilization. "Fa-La-La-La" uses imagery like Santa's boot crushing the baby Jesus in the fireplace and a greenish body decorated like a Christmas tree while "For He Is Raised" has two grotesque giant rabbits holding marionette controls attached to the face of Christ, yanking at his flesh, pulling him out from a cracked Easter egg.

black & white Super 8 project called *Jesus-The Film* in which Buttgereit got friends of his to pick stories from the New Testament to film in any way they chose with three cartridges of film each after which Jörg would put the whole thing together. Buttgereit played Jesus himself in the crucifixion scene, wearing vampire teeth on the cross with a wooden stake through his heart.

Match the words in the first column with the appropriate description in the second.

Buddah	homophobic
Krishna	elitist
Christian	sexist
Judaism	bigoted
Islam	dogmatic
Rastafarian	intolerant
Hindu	fascist
Protestant	speciest

Correct answer: There is no incorrect answer.

We know that Marie Alacoque cleaned up the vomit of a patient with her tongue; in her biography she describes the joy she felt when she had filled her mouth with the excrement of a man sick with diarrhoea; [a] Jesus rewarded her when she held her lips pressed against his Sacred Heart for three hours. Devotion assumes a carnal cast especially in countries of ardent sensuality, like Spain and Italy: even today the women of a village in the Abruzzi still lacerate their tongues licking the pebbles on the ground along a way of the cross.

PRAY, PAY, OBEY.

So last issue I ranted and raved about the vatican and this time around I decided to put the *vatican's* money where my mouth is, so to speak.

An exact count has never really been done of the wealth of the vatican. The pope and his roman catholic church have done everything possible to keep private the ever-amassing wealth of his empire. In fact, the vatican is the only state which consistently refuses to disclose its real budget or value of its assets. Because of this secrecy, information has been scarce and, although some of the figures are a bit dated, you can safely assume that in 1993 they are even larger and more astounding because the church's wealth has not stopped multiplying.

A catholic priest publicly stated, "the catholic church must be the biggest corporation in the U.S. We have a branch office in every neighborhood, our assets and real estate holdings must exceed those of Standard Oil, AT&T, and U.S.Steel combined, and our roster of due-paying members must be second only to the tax rolls of the U.S. government." In 1983 the catholic church owned more property than any private organization in the U.S. and is second only to the U.S. government in real estate purchases. It is larger than the 5 wealthiest corporations in the U.S. and as rich or richer than many countries in the world. In the U.S., the catholic church owns stock in most corporations and as a result has a controlling influence in many aspects of our country. It owns everything from department stores to ranches to schools and hospitals. It is vastly successful with the later, owning 2500 catholic high schools, 300 colleges, universities, and seminaries, and many of the nations best hospitals. All of these holdings are tax exempt allowing the church to buy up property with greater ease than competitors, not to mention grants and aid they recieve. These grants are often awarded to the roman catholic church by our government with our tax dollars. Over 30 years ago, in 1961, the total estimated value of directly owned, tax exempt property of the catholic church in the U.S. was 11 billion. That does not include the billions of stock invested within corporations, etc. A more recent estimate of all the catholic church's assets is 120 billion and 14-15 billion in annual income.

For centuries much of the churches wealth came from its various holdings; churches, cathedrals, and countless priceless art pieces and historical relics. The vatican is said to be the oldest and largest art collectors of all time. The value of such items can only increase. However, during WWI a vatican policy was established which stated that investments should not be limited by political or religious considerations but rather, be handled on the basis of sound, profitable business. From that time on the vatican has invested in anything it could get its hands on. Early in WWII, it went so far as to invest with Germany and then pull out as the war shifted and invest in U.S. stocks. This trend has continued and the vatican now has shares in many corporations through the guise of dummy corporations throughout the world-regardless of their involvement in legal, illegal, moral, or immoral schemes.

It has been calculated that if the wealth of the roman catholic church were to continue to multiply in proportion to its recent growth, in all of its assets, that at the end of the century the catholic church could directly and indirectly have control of 1/3 of all the sources of wealth in the western world. This trend is not one that appears to be declining. In 1971, catholic priests around the world protested the vatican's immense wealth and demanded it be given to the poor. In response, Pope Paul VI said, "the church must be poor...and should also *seem* to be poor." This christian doublespeak has continued as well.

on a semi-related note, last saturday, i was watching x-men (like i usually do) but it was particularly disturbing because there were all these christian religious overtones to the story. wolverine finds religion? a band of monks tell wolverine and rogue not to give up their faith... they never actually SAID let's all convert to christianity, but they may as well have. the final scene? wolverine in a church, praying. as my friend who was watching it with me said, "what's next week's episode? mag eto helped defend an abortion clinic, let's get him, that's murder....." SEE THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT IS EVERYWHERE!!! THEY PUT THEIR MESSAGES IN EVERYTHING!!!!!!!

CHURCHES BEING FORCED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST LAWSUITS

from The Associated Press

Several churches are holding legal seminars and establishing law resource centers to prepare themselves aginst sexual misconduct accusations.

For church activities involving youth, there are now more than two allegations a day in Tennessee alone. Sexual misconduct has become the single most important liability issue facing churches today in terms of cost of litigation, defense and claims if the church is found negligent.

Aware of this, some churches are studying law more diligently than scripture.

The Church Of God School Of Theology sponsored a four day seminar on Church Ministry and the Law. Ministers and lay persons from 16 states attended the conference.

Topics included liability issues regarding child care facilities, pastoral malpractice, confidentiality, negligence, insurance coverage, dismissals, income taxes, and risk management.

Last year alone, 23 law suits were filed against the Church of God affiliated churches. The average sexual misconduct lawsuit costs the Church one million dollars.

The Church of God seminar was held the same week the Baptist Convention held a legal issues workshop. This included speeches from attorneys, judges, and representatives from Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Co., one of the largest Church insurers in the country.

One of the sexual misconduct cases involved youth minister Don McCary. He was convicted in '92 of 13 counts of rape and molestation against five boys aged 12 to 15.

McCary was sentinced to 17 years in prison, where he is probably being raped daily.

The Hixson Central Baptist Church still had to pay 10 million dollars, settling negligence suits.

This is just another example of how wonderful organized religion is. Rather than address the problem of child sexual abuse at the hands of it's supposed holiest members, the churches would rather reduce their financial liability.

As I have maintained all along, organized religion does not give a damn about humanity, all they want is money. And what about the moral lesson learned form the Christians? Do not attempt to protect your flock from rape and molestation, just protect the Church's overflowing bank account. And some people wonder why I bother attacking religion.

One columnist asked how it was that "a Catholic archbishop with whom complaint after complaint had been filed, moved pedophiliac priests to a different set of altar boys." Priest Andrew Greeley suggests that from 2,000 to 4,000 priests may have abused 100,000 underage victims, oftentimes with little done about it.

Learn to recognize mindfuck.

By CELESTINE BOHLEN
New York Times News Service

ROME — As an ecclesiastical state, the Vatican has never pretended to be an equal opportunity employer.

All its lay employees, from its legendary Swiss Guards to the cashiers at its exclusive duty-free store, must be Roman Catholics and swear loyalty to the pope, who is the absolute ruler not only of the church worldwide but also of the diminutive state of Vatican City.

But now, to the shock of the Vatican state's 2,300 lay, or non-ecclesiastical, employees, the Holy See is seeking to impose its absolute authority in an absolute way, both at work and at home. Under a new set of "rules of conduct" due to go into effect in October, new employees will have to sign a "statement of moral standing," binding them — under threat of automatic sanctions, including dismissal — to observe the moral doctrines of the Catholic Church "even in the private sphere."

Ban on joining wrong groups

That means, of course, no divorce, no abortion, no artificial birth control. But there is also a range of other "don'ts" aimed specifically at the Vatican work force, such as a ban on associating with organizations whose "goals are incompatible with the doctrine and discipline of the church" and on "acts of public insubordination, or incitements to insubordination."

No sooner did the new edict make headlines in the Italian press — "In the Vatican, No Work for Divorcees," and "Vatican: Only Super-Catholics Need Apply" — than the phone began to ring constantly at the offices of the Association of Lay Dependents, a 17-year-old organization that has been officially recognized by Pope John Paul II as the representative (but not union) of the Vatican's lay work force.

"There was a woman whose husband wants to divorce her, who is desperate because now she thinks she may lose not only her husband, but her job," a spokesman for the organization said.

On matters such as abortion and birth control, he said, the Vatican is unlikely to find out, because those employees who choose to break the church's moral strictures will do so quietly, if at all.

But what the association finds disturbing is that the Vatican will in effect force new employees to sign their own dismissal papers, and has done so in a high-handed manner.

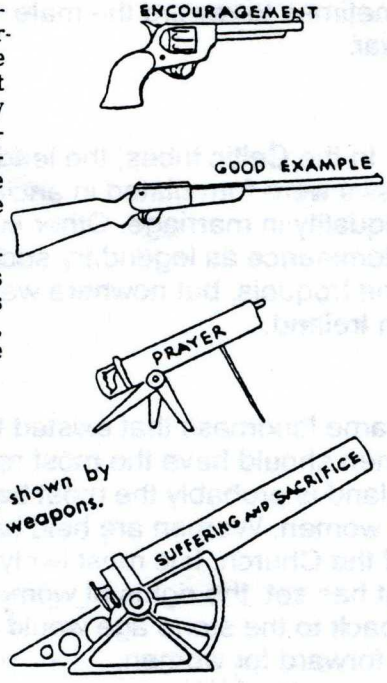
"We don't understand why," the spokesman said. "These are the mysteries of the Holy See."

Cardinal Rosalio Jose Castillo Lara, a Venezuelan and president of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican State, said the new rules — which consist of 95 clauses, replacing the rulebook written in 1969 — were supposed to have "above all a highly pedagogical function."

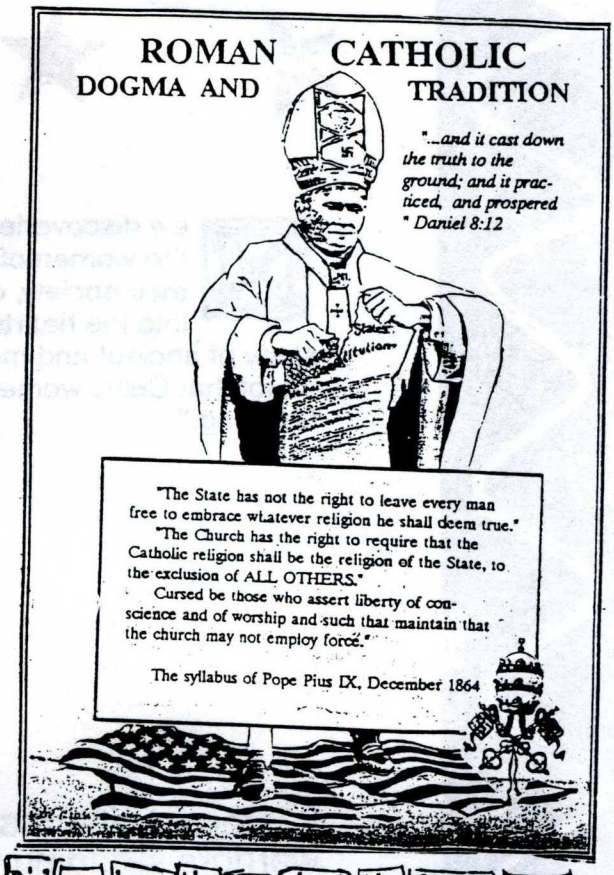
"Their goal is not to repress or restrict freedom, or to change people, but rather to help them to exercise that freedom in an appropriate way," the cardinal told the press.

The job has some perks

Working at the Vatican has always had its special privileges: such as access to its well-stocked pharmacy and duty-free store and cheap gas at its gasoline pump. But these have gone hand-in-hand with special obligations. Until a few years ago, there was an unstated rule that women working at the Vatican Bank, the Institute of Religious Works, could not marry, apparently on the unspoken assumption that sooner or later, they would put family first.



The amount of good we can do is shown by the power of different kinds of weapons.


ROMAN CATHOLIC
DOGMA AND TRADITION
"...and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered" Daniel 8:12
"The State has not the right to leave every man free to embrace whatever religion he shall deem true."
"The Church has the right to require that the Catholic religion shall be the religion of the State, to the exclusion of ALL OTHERS."
Cursed be those who assert liberty of conscience and of worship and such that maintain that the church may not employ force."
The syllabus of Pope Pius IX, December 1864

Did you here the one about the female Pope? It's not a joke

This is the story of Joan Anglicus, the Pope of Rome from 853 to 855, for about two and a half years in all. The Catholic Church has tried to erase her from the history books by dismissing her as a myth for 3 centuries although 150 church historians between the 13th and 17th centuries acknowledged her short rein.

Joan was born in 818 in Britain, and lived there all of her life till she met a young Benedictine monk named Felda. She loved him so much that she disguised herself as a man to follow him to Athens. After his death, a few years later, she went to Rome to enter the priesthood. Winning a university chair as professor of science due to her scholarship, Joan then John, became John of England. She became very popular by constantly giving sermons and in 853 after Pope Loe IV's death she became the next Pope. Many loved her because she had no nephews to advance nor a harem to keep up, so the likelyhood of "John" giving the revenue of St. Peter to the poor was high.

When Emmanuel Royadis wrote the book "Papissa Joanna" about her in 1886 he was excommunicated by the Catholic church. According to Royadis during her rein she ordained 14 bishops, built 5 churches, added a new article to the creed and wrote 3 books against the iconociasts.

During the second year of her rein she fell in love with her private chamberlain, Florus, a young man of twenty. They became lovers and soon to her horror she became pregnant. Joan tried to escape the vatican to bear her child in secrecy and be rid of it but she was confined.

In the midst of a ceremonial procession from St. Peter's to the Lateran Palace, while she rode horse back she suffered premature labor pains. Subsequently the procession was halted, because "he" wasn't feeling well. She was then taken from her horse and fell to the street and in front of a shocked mob gave birth to a premature infant. The crowd seeing the birth not as a miracle but a deception, became enraged. Joan was tied to the tail of her horse and dragged through the streets of Rome, back to the very spot she gave birth and was then stoned to death. She was buried in the midst of the avenue. Her son survived and later became the Bishop of Ostia.

Today's critics in Iowa charge it would broaden access to abortion and bolster gay rights. Most damning to date, however, was a fund-raising letter from evangelist and former presidential candidate Pat Robertson. It accused "radical feminists" of pushing a hidden agenda that "encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians."

New discoveries by Celtic scholars show the women of ancient Ireland dominated their society, casting fear and trepidation into the hearts of male warriors. Recent study of ancient and medieval writing "leaves no doubt that Celtic women were powerful and terrifying."

The Greek and Roman warriors who fought the Celts in ancient Europe talked about the men being very powerfully built and fierce and so fearless that they often went into battle naked. But when they talked about Celtic women, they said they were even more fearless and terrifying. One writer said that if a Celt called on his wife to help him in battle, the opponent had no chance whatsoever.

Literary pictures from the period were of formidable female warriors standing with her spear in hand, her red hair flowing in the wind.

THERE was no mention of a god of war but plenty of references to the goddess of war. The battlefield was the domain of the warrior goddess. She often uses her sexual prowess to interfere in war, to sometimes overcome the enemy, sometimes to reward the male warriors. Her game was war.

In the Celtic tribes, the leaders were women. When laws were formulated in ancient Ireland, women had equality in marriage. Other cultures site female dominance as legendary such as the Amazons and the Iroquois, but nowhere was it as well articulated as in Ireland.

How sad then that the same landmass that existed the most progressive culture for equality of women should have the most repressive society towards women today. Ireland is probably the most backward country in Europe in its treatment of women. Women are held back and held down by law and the dominance of the Church. It is most likely the coming into power of the Catholic church that has set the rights of women back. Yet to say women's rights were set back to the stone age would not be a negative in Ireland's case, but a step forward for women.

WAS JESUS CHRIST A CHRISTIAN? by Sarah

It is my educated opinion that Christianity has nothing to do with Jesus Christ.

When I became a teenager I became extremely turned off of religion. My Church claimed they were the only true religion. But when I asked them to explain how they knew this, I was shown a scripture that said:"By this you will know that you are My people; That you have love among yourselves." So, LOVE is supposedly THE mark of true Chistianity? Not good enough. Even the Arian Nations have love among themselves. They love their own race enough to kill for it. (gee, Im impressed) And from Christians I got everything BUT love. They gave me hate, prejudice, mistrust, sexism, male dominance, massive guilt trip and sexual innibitions.

In giving up my warped religion I gave up Christianity altogether. I dissagree stongly with everything its about. It is just an act. A false way of life. And most so called Chistians are hypocits.

Being hurt by religion also turned me of of God and Christ. I was told God hates me and that by my leaving religion I was leaving God and basically joining Satan. Well good riddance! If God hates me then why should I spend my whole life worshipping Him. Hes just going to hate me anyway.

But I believe now God never hated me. It was men PLAYING God. And thats all religion is.

When I left the religion I realised I never knew God or Jesus. I had spent 17 years being a "perfect Christian" only to find I had never really been spiritual. Who I thought God was all these years was not God at all. It was just people. (does this remind you of the Wizard of Oz?)

So now, Who is He? Few people can read the Bible and actually understand it.

My religion of origin yearly comemmorates the death of Christ by reading parts of the account from the Bible and passing around wine and unleavened bread. This never impressed anything apon me. Of course it should have. This was when Jesus died for our sins and we are forgiven. But I only learned how THEY said it: "Jesus came to earth and set down rules for us to be like him and befor he died he got his disciples together and they drank wine and ate bread and now we're supposed to keep passing around bread and wine in remembrance of him because he said to."

Well as an apathetic teenager I couldnt care less about these boring words and pointless rituals. What I needed was a FEELING.

Well this year the memorial of Christ rolled around and I didnt go to Church to comemmorate it. Instead I spent the evening with my Aunt who shares my views. We read the entire account of what happened that night and for the first time I thought I understood. Religious leaders had put their words in God's mouth and kept all this information from me.

Jesus was cool! He was the most loving, forgiving, non sexist person ever. He never set rules, he just explained life. And each time he appeared after resurrection he appeared to women only. At the age of 32 Jesus started his ministry because his MOTHER said it was time. Gender dominant Christian leaders wont tell you that.

As we sat in silence a love crept into my soul. This was truely a great being. He came to let us see a little piece of God.

So now this feeling I have from Jesus...this love...is God. For once in my life I feel God loves me.

Why did RELIGION try so hard to fill me with the fear of God's hatred? Control for the sake of control.

I will never again call myself a Christian. But I will follow Christ.

What the term "CHRISTIANITY" represents, I want no part of. Todays Christians give Christ a bad name.

And as for Jesus, maybe he'll tell you himself. But I dont think He's a Christian either.

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Having the Courage to Question the Existence of God

BY

Sandra I. Rueda

Religion is too obviously man-made. Man has been the one dictating what the people may or may not do. It was man who decided that priests could not marry, that women may not have abortions, that homosexuality is abnormal/sinful, etc. The bible is simply the tool used to manipulate these commands. And unfortunately, the bible, wherever it came from and written by whomever, can be interpreted in too many ways, which has been and continues to be abused for the ends of the psychotic religious right. Without religion, bigotry and distorted ideas would be easily seen as just the results of ignorant, twisted minds.

What do I have against religion? I dislike that it's used to control humankind—women in particular—but worst of all, I am dismayed that people accept such an abstract, unprovable concept without questioning, without wondering if perhaps God isn't just a fantasy created by a brilliant, ancient mind. And unfortunately, too many people use religion in the wrong way.

The concept of "love thy neighbor" and kindness which is really supposed to be Christianity is truly a beautiful concept, but it doesn't have to have a religious meaning behind it to be beautiful. We should look to ourselves for the power that is taken away by the image of a controlling God, and realize that we are truly amazing beings who have made it this far in the progress of the universe through our own survival instincts and strength.

Since the teaching and knowledge of religion obviously do not have a great positive impact on the formation of young or adult minds in our society, I am very inclined to think that teaching ethics and "human appreciation" would be significantly more beneficial than teaching theistic concepts which most people find difficult to incorporate into their existences. We have to teach people to be kind not for religious, afterworld purposes and benefits, but because it is the humanly correct thing to be.

Someone told me that atheism was a very cold "mentality" because it forbids us from believing in anything mystic. That's false: I think there is more to the human being than the physical, but it has nothing to do with any god, with heaven or hell. It's just simply another part of us which we have to learn to recognize and channel as we would a powerful energy.

It does not require a belief in any god to appreciate the beauty of a sunset, the magic of the ocean, or the grace of a mountain. We can profit from the same beauty which should be imparted by religion from simple appreciation of ourselves and our planet, and from acceptance that we can have true kindness and love without being motivated by fear of punishment in hell.

There is nothing negative about atheism. Quite the contrary, as Carl Shapiro states in his *Why I Am An Atheist* manifesto: "The philosophy of atheism is inspiringly positive, for it erects no barriers to human aspirations, builds no monuments to superstition, wastes no energy on false hopes of salvation, and spends no time in wishful thinking...the atheist is better equipped to overcome the obstacles and hardships of life, since [she] is able to stand courageously on [her] own. Relying solely on the inner strength [she] has developed from knowledge and life's experiences, the emancipated mind and spirit of the atheist are capable of achieving a level of intellectual and emotional enrichment that no religion, no theology can possibly offer."

I don't want to lose some close friends who are deeply religious, as a result of this article. I would like you to remember that this is simply an expression of my ideas and not a personal insult to the people who have religious beliefs. This writing is mostly aimed at inspiring the people who have allowed themselves to be oppressed by religion to question it and have the power to get out from under its potentially ravaging hold.

HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU BASE YOUR BELIEFS ON?

SUFISM

THE ALCHEMY OF THE HEART

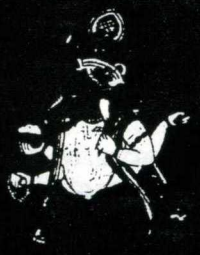
JUDAISM

THE TANAKH

BUDDHISM

THE DHAMMAPADA

HINDUISM



THE RIG VEDA

ZEN

THE REASON OF UNREASON

CHRISTIANITY

THE APOCRYPHA AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

CONFUCIANISM

THE ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS

ISLAM

THE QUR'AN

TAO

TO KNOW AND NOT BE KNOWING

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Please write all hate-mail on a $20.00 bill and send it to:

Shannon Colebank
Flashpoint zine
POBx 5591
Portland OR 97228 USA

Flashpoint issue 2 is readily available. It is about gender identity. From Riot Grrrl rants to male feminist frustration, it discusses how our society is set up to brain-wash Y chromosome to be a macho thug and X chromosome to be a worthless powder-puff and what we might do to change this. It costs $4.00 US cash. Postage paid world wide. Is 88 full-sized pages. I do not take foreign currency or do trades.

Please do not send me music.

Here is a list of zines I reprinted from in the making of Flashpoint issue one. Please show them your support.

- Anti Racist Action
  POBx 02097
  Columbus OH 43202 USA
  donations
- P-Form
  756 N Milwaukee Ave
  Chicago IL 60622 USA
  $4.00
- Naughty Bitz
  c/o Fantagraphics Books
  7563 Lake City Way NE
  Seattle WA 98115 USA
  free catalog
- The Body Politic
  Bx 2363
  Binghamton NY 13902 USA
  $20.00 for a 1 year sub
- Turning The Tide
  c/o PART
  POBx 1990
  Burbank CA 91507 USA
  $10.00 for a 1 year sub
- Molasses Soul Kiss
  522½ E Speedway Blvd
  Tucson AZ 85705-7425 USA
  $2.00
- Glamour
  Bx 53716
  Boulder CO 80322 USA
- Feminist Broadcast Quarterly
  POBx 1794
  Matairie LA 70004 USA
  $3.00
- A.P.B.
  POBx 1551
  Royal Oak MI 48068 USA
  $1.00
- Semaphore
  436 Redwood Ave
  Winnipeg MB R2W 156 Canada
  $2.00
- Simba
  POBx 2635
  Brighton BN1 8SU England
  $3.00
- People Of The Lie
  A book by M. Scott Peck
- Body Memories
  2319 N 45th St #230
  Seattle WA 98103-6953 USA
  $2.00
- Craphound
  POBx 40373
  Portland OR 97240-0373 USA
  $5.00
- Monk
  175 Fifth Ave Suite 2322
  New York NY 10010 USA
  $10.00 for a 4 issue sub
- Maximumrocknroll
  POBx 460760
  San Francisco CA 94146-0764 USA
  $3.00
- Contrascience
  POBx 8344
  Minneapolis MN 55408-0344 USA
  $2.00
- Random Shots
  3651 A S 76th St
  Milwaukee WI 53220 USA
  $2.00

"The Walt Disney studio has made a movie titled 'Priest' that is highly insulting to Roman Catholics. It is ironic indeed that a company that has built its incredible fortune on an image of wholesomeness would attempt to exploit, for profit, the staunchest voice for decent behavior in this society.

"All people in this community who reject the idea of religious persecution should boycott not only this movie, but all Disney products and parks until this movie is recalled and the Disney company apologizes to the Christian community."

Something we could learn from these folks is their totally efficient organizing and networking. Of course, one tactic we should carefully avoid - which is one of their most effective tactical strategies - is the lying, manipulating, and playing up of people's fears and insecurities and sense of self-preservation at the expense of others. Reading these clippings, you can watch and see how they manipulate their followers' desperate need to feel superior, martyrized like their God in the name of their twisted righteousness. No wonder these folks have so much support.....

P.S.

My dear readers

It grieves me to report that Sarah P.W. did not make it through the first issue of FLASHPOINT.

She is 18 years old, but she started acting like a snotty resentful 14 year old. She became very manipulative, with alot of passive agressive game playing. Silently manipulative.

The point of this page is not to bash her. The point is, the REASON she is like that.

The Bible says women should stay silent in church and take a subserviant role toward men. Sarahs parents interpreted this to mean they should tape her mouth shut in the home. Throughout her childhood she rutinely suffered this treatment. She was told it was because she was a girl.

It is no wonder she became a male identifier. Outside the home she rode dirt bikes, played football and soccer with the boys, didnt like girls much.

Inside the home she bacame a silent manipulator. Her parents left her no choice. She became very good at controling people through passive agression. With intense resentment and even spite.

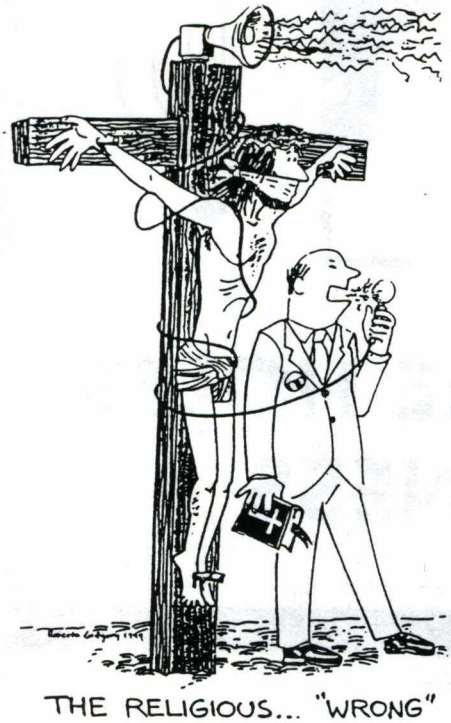
We became roomates and good friends. We had alot in common in our abusive childhoods, gender confution and mutual hatred of religion. We respected each others limitations. I dragged her to see alot of riot grrrl shows. She got me back into writing songs and poetry. In many ways she can be the sweetest person.

It makes me very angry to see all of her potential ruined by Christian abuse. And though I cant stand her any more, I do feel a great loss. It just makes me hate Christians so much more.

So thats the whole point of this issue of FLASHPOINT. How people can do truely eivil things to their children, or anyone, and honestly convince themselves they are being GOOD.

Sarah's parents showed her those scriptures and said "See? Right here. The Bible tells us we must tape our daughters mouth shut and force her to become a manipulative creep." Not in those words, but thats the way it happened.

Shannon



THE RELIGIOUS... "WRONG"

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK OCT. 20 - 26

Most of us are interested in characters who willingly give up their innocence and decide to act badly. I myself am fascinated when they not only do that but also admit that they did it and even declare that they had good reasons for doing so. There is such a thing as the poetry of a mistake, and when you say "Mistakes were made," you deprive an action of its meaning and you sound like a weasel. When you say "I fucked up," the action retains its sordid origin, its obscenity, and its poetry. At such moments wrongdoing becomes intelligible, and the story can come to a close.

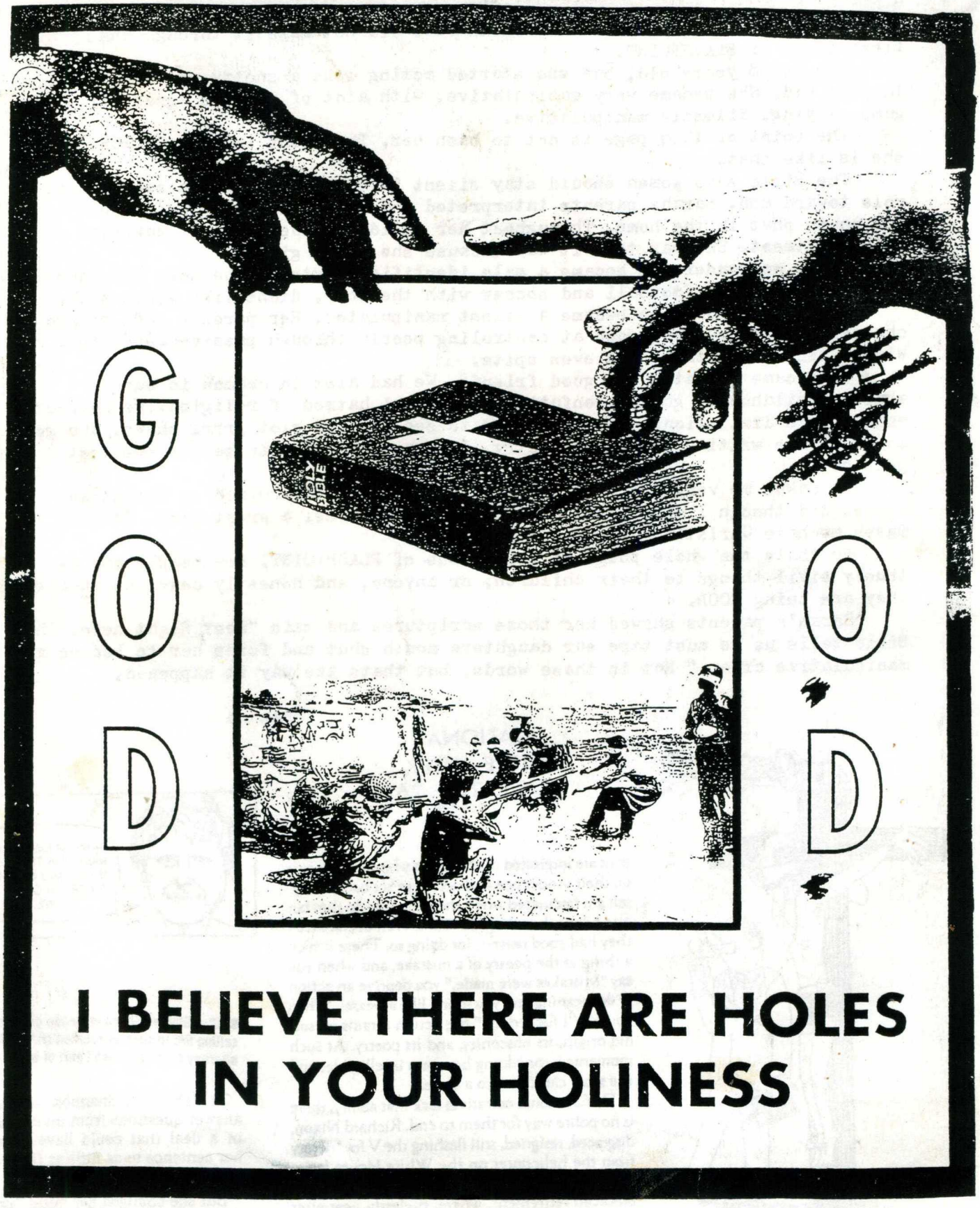
Dysfunctional narratives lack that ability; there is no polite way for them to end. Richard Nixon, disgraced, resigned, still flashing the V for Victory from the helicopter on the White House lawn, cognitively dissonant to the end, went off to his enforced retirement, where, tirelessly, year after year, in solitude, he wrote his accounts, every one of them meant to justify and to excuse.

■After Shelley Shannon pleads guilty to setting fire to several abortion clinics, her attorney says she wasn't part of a conspiracy

In February, Shannon agreed to answer questions from investigators in a deal that could have reduced her sentence to as little as five years behind bars.

But she changed her mind "pretty early on," Bates said. "She came to the conclusion that 'This is not morally right for me to do this.' "

And for you critics... FLASHPOINT issue two will have A LOT more original material.



I BELIEVE THERE ARE HOLES IN YOUR HOLINESS